

All you need to know about Major League Soccer

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

SOCCER

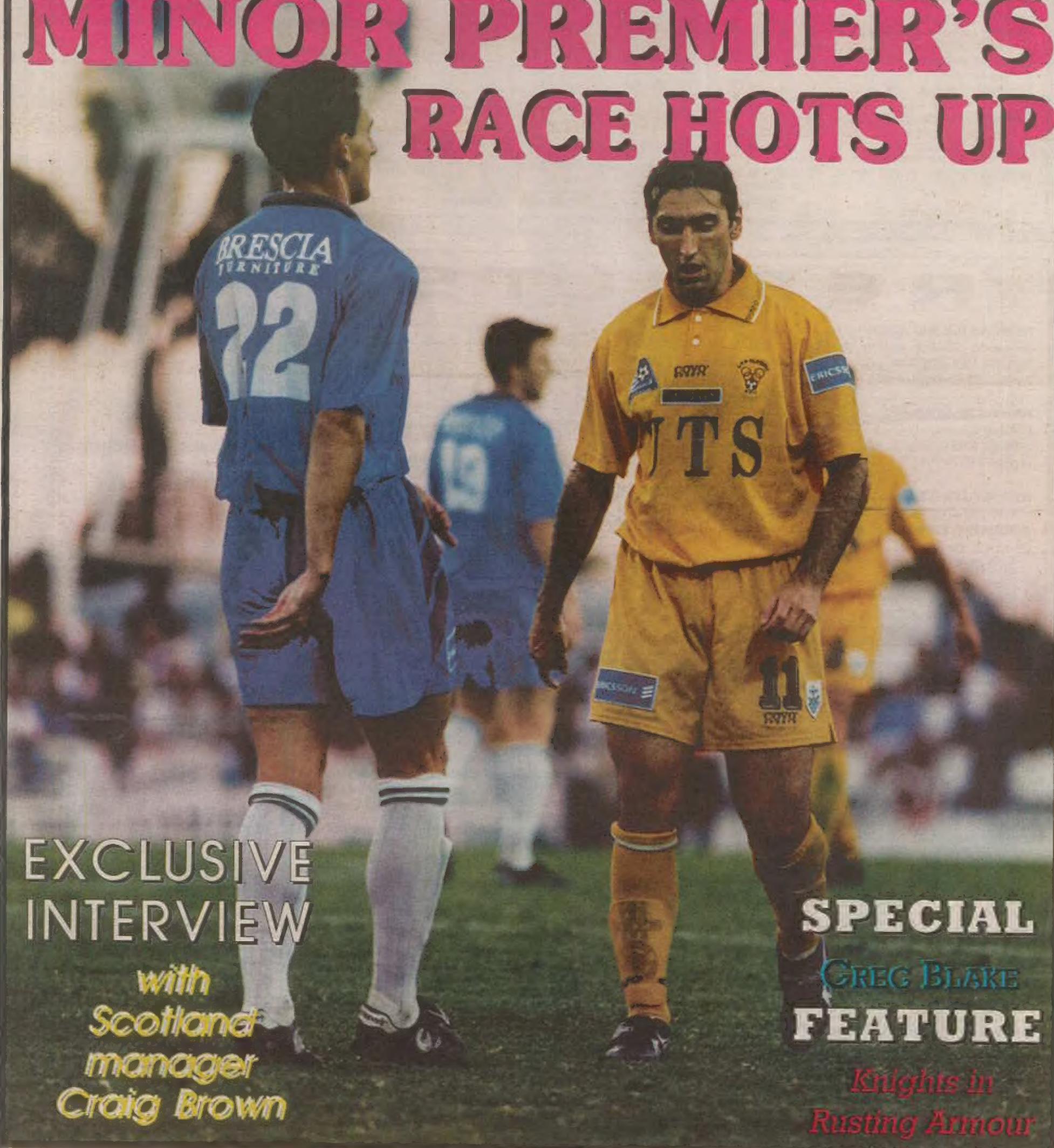
VOL 17 No.763 - TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1996

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WEEKLY

\$2.50

MINOR PREMIER'S RACE HOTS UP



ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 22

TABLE

TOTAL

	Pts	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	44	22	13	5	4	43	26
Marconi Fairfield	43	22	13	4	5	41	24
Brisbane Strikers	40	22	12	4	6	38	23
West Adelaide	34	22	10	4	8	31	28
Sydney United	33	22	8	9	5	28	22
Melbourne Knights	33	21	9	6	6	22	16
Adelaide City	29	21	8	5	8	35	29
South Melbourne	27	22	8	3	11	33	39
Morwell Falcons	26	21	7	5	9	24	36
Canberra Cosmos	23	22	5	8	9	37	40
Newcastle Breakers	14	21	3	5	13	25	47
Wollongong City	14	22	4	2	16	19	46

HOME

	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	11	8	3	0	23	8
Marconi Fairfield	12	7	3	2	23	15
Brisbane Strikers	11	8	2	1	31	8
West Adelaide	12	8	1	3	18	11
Sydney United	10	5	2	2	17	9
Melbourne Knights	11	7	1	3	12	5
Adelaide City	10	4	3	3	20	10
South Melbourne	11	5	3	3	21	15
Morwell Falcons	10	4	2	4	13	15
Canberra Cosmos	11	3	4	4	21	17
Newcastle Breakers	12	2	5	5	19	24
Wollongong City	10	3	0	7	10	16

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A
UTS Olympic	11	5	2	4	20	18
Marconi Fairfield	10	6	1	3	18	9
Brisbane Strikers	11	4	2	5	7	15
West Adelaide	10	2	3	5	13	17
Sydney United	12	3	7	2	10	10
Melbourne Knights	10	2	5	3	10	11
Adelaide City	11	4	2	5	15	19
South Melbourne	11	3	0	8	12	24
Morwell Falcons	11	3	3	5	11	21
Canberra Cosmos	11	2	3	6	16	23
Newcastle Breakers	9	1	0	8	6	23
Wollongong City	12	1	2	9	9	30

W WIN 3 Points

D DRAW 1 Points

L LOSS 0

RESULTS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	4
(Lowe 32, 75pen, Halpin 50, Bennett 88)	
SOUTH MELBOURNE	2
(Orlic 45, Damianos 89)	
BRISBANE STRIKERS	3
(Brown 22, 44), Polak (24)	
UTS OLYMPIC	1
(Tome 78)	
SYDNEY UNITED	2
(Zdrilic 51, Patikas 75)	
ADELAIDE CITY	2
(Mori 41, Foster 78)	

MORWELL FALCONS	1
(Masi 36)	
CANBERRA COSMOS	1
(Lemezina 57)	
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	1
(Spiteri 47)	
WOLLONGONG CITY	0
WEST ADELAIDE	1
(Tsekinis 2)	
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD	0

CROWDS

SEASON BEST: 13,956 – South Melbourne v West Adelaide – Round 9
 ROUND 21 BEST: 5,113 Brisbane V UTS Olympic TOTAL ROUND 22: 21,545
 SEASON TOTAL: 581,865. AVERAGE PER MATCH: 4,476.

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◆ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 7 days PRIOR to issue date.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS \$130

Send to P.O. Box 146, Broadway, NSW 2007

FANS CLUB BY CLUB

CLUB	TOTAL	MATCHES	AVERAGE
Souths	77285	11	7025
UTS Olympic	62,701	11	5700
Marconi	62024	12	5168
Brisbane	52,809	11	4800
Ad City	47030	10	4703
Sy Utd	44,772	10	4477
Melb Knights	47,619	11	4329
Newcastle	43,242	12	3603
West Ad	48,676	12	4056
Canberra	36040	11	3179
Morwell	31,792	10	3290
Wollongong	32238	10	3223

- EACH CLUB'S BEST CROWD -

Souths	13956 v West Ad	R9
Marconi	11866 v UTS Olympic	R20
UTS Olympic	11145 v Marconi	R9
Ad City	9601 v West Ad	R17
Sy Utd	9170 v UTS Olympic	R19
West Ad	8284 v Ad City	R6
Brisbane	7851 v Melb Knights	R16
Newcastle	6837 v UTS Olympic	R1
Melb Knights	6290 v Souths	R1
Canberra	5490 v Syd Utd	R2
Wollongong	5069 v UTS Olympic	R17
Morwell	4183 v Souths	R2

LEADING GOALSCORERS

17 Kris Trajanovski	(UTS Olympic)
17 Damien Mori	(Adelaide City)
12 Frank Farina	(Brisbane Strikers)
11 Paul Wade	(Canberra Cosmos)
10 Andy Harper	(Marconi)
10 Francis Awaritefe	(Marconi Fairfield)
10 Jim Tsekinis	(West Adelaide)
9 Rodney Brown	(Brisbane Strikers)
8 Bradley Hassell	(Adelaide City)
7 Ivan	

Marconi officially pulls out of Apia Rescue Mission

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Club Marconi, Australia's biggest and most glamorous soccer club, has scrapped its initial and honourable ambitions to dive in and rescue the financially-crippled Apia Club Limited which is drowning in monumental debts.

They are recently reported to have rocketed to an almost unbelievable \$9 million.

Marconi's high-profile president, Tony Labbozzetta who some three weeks back together with his Board of Directors had seriously contemplated instigating a 'Marconi-rescue-Apia' mission, has now reluctantly scrapped the plan.

Mr Labbozzetta stated to ABSW, "Initially we were very keen to see what we could do to save the Apia Club.

"We couldn't just sit back and watch such a great historical club fold and simply disappear from the scene.

"Club Marconi felt that



we had to attempt some form of rescue mission to aid this disastrous situation.

"Last Friday night our Board of Directors however reluctantly made the decision that this mission was well beyond the strength of our financial resources," he concluded.

Mr Labbozzetta went on to elaborate just how serious was Marconi's initial intent.

"Over the past few weeks, Club Marconi had numerous discussions with Bank officials, the Administrator and our own legal and accounting advisers, on just how Marconi could assist in



Club Marconi's President Tony Labbozzetta.



"Ultimately we found that no matter how desirable it would be to save Apia by throwing them a life-line or to even purchase the property and try to salvage something to preserve their name, we just could not embark on such an exercise.

"Our own debt levels after extensive remodelling of Club Marconi have reached \$12 million.

"We have further extinctions to finish including buying out the road in front of our Club for the redevelopment of a new car park which is going to set us back another \$7 million.

"So you can see the vast financial weight of our own debt levels could be seriously put at risk if we

had decided to rush in and stretch another \$4 or \$5 million dollars to help save Apia", analysed Mr Labbozzetta.

Last Sunday's Meeting At APIA Raises \$1-million.

An urgent meeting of all Apia Club Limited Members was convened last Sunday at which an Appeal was launched in a most desperate move to stave off pending liquidation of the Club.

Members attending, pledged over \$1 million dollars to the Appeal to help in seeking an extension of time to raise more funds to buy out the valuable waterfront premises that the Club occupies.

It was reported that at this meeting, two old Apia Club members, (both now pensioners), pledged towards the Appeal, \$10,000 and \$5,000 each.

Apia this Friday, together with their officially appointed Administrator, Mr John Mann, will be holding a Meeting of Creditors to determine the Club's future (if any).

APIA'S TRAGIC TALE

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

The Apia Soccer Club Limited one of Australia's greatest clubs, a massive Soccer power-base of the 50s and 60s, could very soon see its very existence come to an abrupt end, despite its long and most illustrious history on playing arenas across Australia.

This former giant Club which boasted some of the biggest names in Australian Soccer especially during the 60s, great names of the size of Fillipo Bottalico, Johnny Watkiss, Pat Hughes, Johnny Giacometti, Ernie Campbell, Ricardo Campana and more, is reported to be very near death, crippled by staggering debts totalling almost \$9 million dollars.

As Sinatra sang in the 70s... "And Now the End is Near."

How tragic.

And the end is as near as the Friday afternoon when the Club's official Administrator will address a

meeting of Apia's long list of Creditors.

How could all this happen to the Grand Old Italian Soccer Taj Mahal, situated on the very picturesque waterfront shores of Leichhardt?

APIA established since 1960 and standing for Associazione Polisportiva Italo-Australiana seems to have never traded at a profit from Day One.

The meeting of creditors could easily see the Club fold.

The largest creditor by far is a 500 year old Italian Trust Bank The Monte dei Paschi which endeavoured to save the Club's future by advancing it \$5 million plus almost three years ago.

The historic Italian Bank took Apia's freehold premises as collateral.

Originally the Apia Club boasted a Membership of over 11,000.

Today, this total has been allowed to crash to some 2,800.

Over the years, such a



Glory Days: Apia's 1975 Premiership winning squad.

drastic drop in 'club-traffic' compounded into an alarming drop in cash-flow.

Club debts which totalled just over \$1.25 million in

1985, have through a combination of bad management, over the past 11 or so years, and a severe drop in membership, all

assisted in ballooning Apia's debt to today's figure.

It is alleged that various Club records over the years have mysteriously

disappeared making the Auditors' task much more arduous.

With losses mounting rapidly, an Administrator,

Mr John Mann, from Chartered Accountants William Buck was urgently appointed two years ago to try to help turn the 'ship' around.

But the losses continued.

Two years ago, Apia's last president, and staunch clubman, Renato Orsatti, a well-known Sydney businessman, went bankrupt desperately trying to save Apia's plight.

The Minister For Gaming and Racing, Richard Face M.P., became very concerned with what his Department was hearing about the Apia Club.

Two weeks ago Mr Face commissioned an investigator to see if he could find legal grounds for prosecution of individuals previously connected with the Club.

Now this Friday afternoon nothing but a miracle, it seems, can save Australian Soccer's famous old Apia Club.

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STAR PROFILE

Robbie Slater

WEST HAM UNITED



Date of Birth: November, 22nd 1964
Birthplace: Liverpool, England
Previous Clubs: Auburn, St George, Blacktown City, Sydney Croatia, Anderlecht, Lens, Blackburn Rovers.
Current Club: West Ham United
Position: Striker or midfielder
Nickname: 'Red Baron' or 'Bulldog'
Marital Status: Married to Nathlie, 17-month-old daughter, Victoria.
Occupation: Full-time player
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Runs from deep midfield and general work-rate
Most Difficult Opponent: Paul Ince
Most Impressive Local Player: Tony Popovic
Favourite Overseas Player: George Weah
Favourite Overseas Club: Liverpool
Euro '96 tip: Germany or Croatia
Qualities Make a Good Coach: Technical knowledge and coach-to-player communication and management skills
Most Unwelcomed Dinner Guest: No-one really as life is too short to make enemies
Honours: Australian teams since 1987, Olympic Games '88, World Cup squads of 1990 and '93
Ambitions For 1996: To do well with West Ham and to be healthy and generally happy in my life
Ambitions After Retiring: To remain in soccer in some capacity
Most Memorable Moment: The two Australian 1993 World Cup qualifiers against Argentina and winning a League Championship medal with Blackburn Rovers last season
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Spending time with my family
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Maradona's second goal against England in the Mexico 1986 World Cup
Favourite Food: Pasta
Favourite Drink: Beer
Car You Drive: Porsche
Favourite TV Show: Baywatch
TV Show You Refuse To Watch: None
Favourite Movie: Heat
Favourite Actor/Actress: Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone
Preferred Music: All types
Least Preferred Music: None
Favourite Comedian: Graham Arnold
Pet Hates: Racism and all wars
Special Advice To Young Players: Believe in yourself, train hard as hard work is 80% of success and 20% ability
Person Most Like To Meet: Pamela Anderson
By JOHN ECONOMOS

JESSIE WALLACE

It is with deep regret that ABSW announce the recent passing of Mrs Jessie Wallace, wife of Victorian Soccer Federation's President George Wallace.

Mrs Wallace's death comes after a long illness. Throughout her final years, Jessie fought a long and courageous battle, and always conducted herself with dignity. Our sincere condolences to George and his family on their sad loss.

National Youth League NORTHERN DIVISION

BY PETER KONSTO

In a round that saw a number of teams playing extra matches, the Les Scheinflug Cup has a new leader in the Australian Institute of Sport, following their two victories on the weekend.

Their first win saw them finish strongly against Wollongong City to defeat the Wolves 4-1 in Canberra.

A half-time lead attained through a 22nd minute goal from the Institute's Maisano was nullified five minutes into the second half when Sterjovski equalised for the visitors.

However, the AIS scored three goals in the final 15 minutes of the game to seal the victory.

The AIS continued on their winning way despite a big scare with a 3-2 home victory over St George.

Indeed it seemed that the AIS would be doing it easy when they hit the lead against the last placed Saints as early as the seventh minute through Seric. But the visitors regrouped quickly and held out until the 60th minute when Peter Buljan put the Institute further into the lead.

But then an amazing sequence of events saw St George score two goals in two minutes through Nasser

to bring them level at 2-2.

However, an 89th minute winner from Brett Emerton secured the victory and the three points for the AIS.

It certainly wasn't a good week for the Saints which saw them play three games. They lost to UTS Olympic 3-1 at Leichhardt Oval and then went down 0-4 at home at Marconi Fairfield.

Marconi won't be too worried by the fact that the AIS is one point clear at the top of the table as they have two games in hand and are certain to re-take top spot next round.

Sydney United are still well placed in third position thanks to their easy 4-1 win over the NSW ITC. Three second half goals scored within the space of four minutes simply proved too much for the visitors who are helping to prop up the wrong end of the table.

In other games, Parramatta Eagles had an excellent 3-1 away win over Newcastle Breakers to improve their chances of making the play-offs.

The in form ACT Academy had an unexpected 2-2 draw with Blacktown City at Gabbie Stadium while the QAS and UTS Olympic fought out a tough 0-0 draw.

GRAHAM ARNOLD COLTS CUP - ROUND 14

Central Coast	1	Adamstown R'buds	0
Bonnyrigg WE	1	Warringah Lions	3
Sydney United	1	P'matta Eagles	2
Canterbury Berries	0	Illawarra Lions	3
Rockdale City Suns	2	Sutherland Sharks	1
Macarthur Rams	5	Leichhardt Tigers	0
Bankstown City Lions	2	UTS Olympic	1

LES SCHEINFLUG YOUTH CUP - ROUND 21

St George Saints	0	Marconi	4
Newcastle Breakers	1	P'matta Eagles	3
Blacktown City	2	ACT Academy	2
AIS	4	Wollongong City	1
QAS	0	UTS Olympic	0
Sydney United	4	NSW ITC	1
UTS Olympic	3	St George Saints	1
AIS	3	St George Saints	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
AIS	23	16	2	5	74	31	50
Marconi Fairfield	21	16	1	4	68	16	49
Sydney United	21	14	0	7	44	26	42
ACT Academy	22	12	3	7	42	41	39
Wollongong City	22	11	3	8	47	44	36
UTS Olympic	21	9	5	7	43	29	32
Parramatta Eagles	22	8	6	8	39	37	30
Qld Acad of Sport	20	9	2	9	50	33	29
Newcastle Breakers	22	7	3	12	35	46	24
Blacktown City	21	5	5	11	34	68	20
NSW ITC	21	3	0	18	22	76	9
St George	20	2	2	16	17	68	8

National Youth League SOUTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 20 FRIDAY MARCH 1

ALTONA MAGIC	0
MELBOURNE ZEBRAS	5

J. Maiola (2), F. Romano (1), A. Napolitana (1), A. Yilmaz (1)	5
VIS	2

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	1
GREEN GULLY	0
HEIDELBERG UNITED	1

SATURDAY MARCH 2

NTH GEELONG	0
STH MELBOURNE	9

Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps Are On Again



Richard Alagich: Technical Director of Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

School Holidays are just around the corner which also means Soccer Camps will be in full swing right across NSW.

When it comes to talking about Camps, none are bigger or better known than Pacific-Umbro Soccer Camps established 16 years ago.

"Soccer is still on a roll in this country and our next generation of players will aspire to an Australian team that has already gained respect worldwide," stated Pacific-Umbro's Richard Alagich last night to ABSW.

Alagich went on to add, "The recent successes of our international soccer heroes should see thousands of youngsters continue to take up this fantastic sport to give a huge boost of encouragement for those already participating."

Over 1000 future budding stars are expected at the Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps once more where they will meet some of the best coaches available.

SBS sports producer and presenter, Les Murray, is the latest addition to the talented array of coaching staff already signed up for the April Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps.

Les will be Special Guest at a selected number of Camps and will talk and answer questions on what Pele, Maradona, Baggio and other giants of world soccer, had to do to become superstars.

Star Australian Olympic Games central midfielder, Peter Tsekenis, from NSW team UTS Olympic, will be at various locations demonstrating the technique that has made him one of Australia's hottest property.

Richard Alagich, who is the Technical Camp Director, coach of Australia's first apprenticeship scheme and author of FIFA-endorsed world wide coaching manual 'Soccer: Winning through technique and tactics' will guest at all locations.

Leading Australian specialist goalkeeper coach, Fred Wall will visit locations and put on specific coaching sessions for goalkeepers.

Non live in Soccer Camps will be held at Blacktown, Caringbah, Eastwood, Emu Plains, Fords Forest, Hunters Hill, Illawong, Mona Vale and Rockdale.

The Camps will run for one week, from April 9 to 12 with some of Australia's best coaches and players instructing the youngsters.

For bookings or any general enquiries call either of (02) 9971-6131 or 9977-2992.. (See advert Page 5).

Last Friday night the match between Altona and Melbourne Zebras was fairly one sided. The Melbourne Zebras had an outstanding game, finishing with a 5-0 win. Goalscorers were J. Maiola with 2, A. Napolitana 1, and J. Romano and A. Yilmaz with one each also. Green Gully played Heidelberg United in a tight match with only one goal being scored in the entire game, that going to Heidelberg United. The VIS played Melbourne Knights at Paisley Reserve last Friday Night. The final score was a 2-1 victory to the VIS. South Melbourne slaughtered the North Geelong team 9-0. But credit must go to North Geelong who are currently fielding a team of 15 and 16-year-olds.

RATCLIFFE FINED \$2500

UTS Olympic coach, David Ratcliffe and South Melbourne official, Jim Armstrong were each fined \$2,500 by a Soccer Australia tribunal over an alleged head-butting incident after an Ericsson Cup match on February 4.

Ratcliffe claimed he was head-butted by Armstrong while attempting to speak with match officials after the game at South Melbourne's Lakeside Stadium, which the home side won 2-1.

SA spokesman Scott Crebbin said last week that Ratcliffe was fined \$1,000 for talking to the media about the incident and \$1,500 for bringing the game into disrepute.

Armstrong was fined \$2,500 for bringing the game into disrepute.

Both men have seven days in which to lodge any appeal.

Scotland Manager talks about game with Australia

BY ROY HAY

Australia will play Scotland at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on Wednesday March 27, in what will be the Scottish team's last home game before Euro 96 kicks-off in June.

Scotland manager, Craig Brown spoke with me in Glasgow on February 28 about the match. I began by asking him what the value to Scotland was of the game against Australia.

"We need games against teams, preferably those which are not involved in the European Championships. This will be our last home game before the tournament."

Where did the idea for the game come from? "I met Eddie Thomson (pictured) and your president (actually Chairman David Hill) at the World Cup draw (in Paris). We were having a chat over breakfast and I said that we were looking for games. Eddie also was looking for a game for his players, many of whom play in Europe. It was a joint initiative."

What kind of team will you field? "It will be as near as possible to our starting team for the Championships, subject of course to call-offs. With the Scottish League very tight at the moment, we could have some problem with that. I will be trying to field the best team possible."

Nearly everyone is fit and there is great incentive among the players to be selected for the Championships."



What do you know about the Australian team? "Not a great deal at the moment, but I will be taking steps to find out soon. I will get videos of the players. I know most of the players who play in English leagues, but I'm not so well informed about those who play in Europe."

This will be a very difficult game for us, for Australia have a good reputation. But we hope it will be difficult for Australia too."

I reminded Craig Brown about the Scotland v Australia matches in 1985. "Yes we were very fortunate in Australia. Jim Leighton pulled off a couple of great saves."

What is your relationship with Eddie Thomson? "Well, I am older than Eddie, though that is hard to believe. He was in a group I was responsible for when he

was doing his coaching certificate."

Did you teach him all he knows, then? "Even then he was an outstanding exponent of the game. I meet him frequently at games. Australia's current reputation reflects great credit on Eddie. He was a tough, robust player and I suspect he coaches in the same way."

I said that the modern Australian team relied much more on skill and less on physicality than in the past, point to players like Paul Okon, Aurelio Vidmar and Ned Zelic.

"This will be a good, difficult game for us. It will be at Hampden Park, where the capacity has been reduced to 38,000 during the reconstruction.

This will be last chance for the Scottish fans to see the team before the Euro 96 and I expect at least 25,000 for the game."

I asked about the negativity of the Scottish fans towards the current team and towards its manager, which I had detected since my arrival less than a week ago. "I think it is the press which is fairly negative."

But I am very conscious of the goodwill the team and I receive. Look at England, where Terry Venables hasn't played a competitive match yet, but he is getting abuse. I have seen what happened to previous Scottish managers.

I think I get less abuse, though all that could change with a couple of defeats. I pay little attention to the negatives, because we do get a lot of goodwill."

SCOTLAND & AUSTRALIA - LIVE ON SBS

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SBS-TV Australia's Super Soccer Channel will screen live and exclusively, Australia's friendly away-clash against Scotland on Thursday, March 28.

All eastern states will be able to see this classic match between 6.30am and 9am. Queensland will get the transmission an hour sooner from 5.30am, Darwin and South Australia half an hour earlier and Perth from 3.30am.

Edited highlights will be screened the same evening at 8.30pm, except Adelaide where it will be shown at 8pm.

Scotland will field its strongest side to meet Australia and will be treating this match as a serious warm-up game as preparation for the European Championships in England in June. SBS will provide extensive coverage of Euro 96 including live matches.

Eddie Thomson at this stage has pencilled in only one Australian-based player, Sydney United captain and sweeper Tony Popovic, in his squad.

The rest of the Australian side will be picked from players based in Europe and Britain.

Thomson intends to select goalkeeper Mark Bosnich (Aston Villa), defender Ned Zelic (Eintracht Frankfurt), midfielders the Vidmar brothers, Aurelio (on-loan to Sion, Switzerland) and Tony (NAC Breda, Holland), Robbie Slater (West Ham), Steve Corica (Wolves), and striker Graham Arnold (NAC Breda, Holland).

Despite being unable to play because of his recent knee operation, Australia's shiniest international star, Paul Okon, will be in Scotland for this important clash.

Thomson has already contacted Okon in Belgium and has invited him to travel to Scotland.

"I feel Paul who is making a rapid recovery, could be ready in time to take his place in Australia's Olympic team when we have to play against a member of CONCACAF late May in our final hurdle to get to the Atlanta Games," stated Thomson.



Mr. Les Murray
SBS Sport

Australia's Mr. Soccer says, "I thoroughly recommend the Pacific-Umbro Soccer Camps to you..."

Photo album from Richard's recent coaching visit to cities in Japan

- 1 Civic reception with Mayor - Gifu City
- 2 Meeting with General Secretary JFA Coaches Association
- 3 Coaching Camp - Gifu City
- 4 With coaches at the Richard Alagich Coaching Seminar - Osaka City
- 5 Staff coaches Fred Wall and Chris Jones at the Fukushima City coaching camp
- 6 Group of camp students - Kogoshima City
- 7 Meeting with members of Japan's Technical Committee in Tokyo City
- 8 Special guest coach lecture at the Nippon College of Physical Education - Tokyo City



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EASTWOOD
EMU PLAINS
FRENCHS FOREST
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SBS - give all teams fair go

Dear Sir,

Several weeks ago, prompted by a mysterious gaff on the part of the SBS On the Ball programme which lost footage of the Brisbane v Adelaide City game, I contacted the programme manager at SBS, seeking an explanation. With footage of the earlier game against the Sharks also having disappeared, I was left wondering if there was some sort of conspiracy.

Apparently the footage had been mislaid by Optus, who had been contracted to cover the game, and indeed the footage was broadcast the following Monday evening.

I also asked SBS why the Strikers never seemed to feature in the main game on the Ericsson Cup show, and was told that it was because the Strikers play on

Saturdays, and SBS are contracted to cover Sunday games only.

Contractors such as Optus cover the regional games.

When I asked why Brisbane did not feature in Sunday away matches, it was suggested that Brisbane 'might not be playing well enough'. The fact that Brisbane is third on the ladder seems to have escaped the SBS production crew.

Look at the fixture list for this season and see for yourselves which clubs play on Sundays. What is the justification for this discriminatory treatment by SBS?

Lest you dismiss this letter as mere whinging by a dissatisfied Queenslander, (after all, every supporter wants maximum exposure for their team) please consider the wider implications.

■ SBS has the responsibility of being the only broadcaster of the national competition on free to air TV. Clearly, SBS has an obligation to promote the game in a reasonably balanced manner, and that means equal exposure for regional teams.

■ While acknowledging the right to editorial freedom, SBS has an obligation to ensure that the sponsor is given value for money. Are we to assume that Ericsson are content to confine sales of its products to Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne? I doubt it.

■ Given that our national coach seldom ventures to regional venues, how else but through the media (and that means SBS), are talented young players to get national exposure? Had he been a Queenslander, would Danny Tiatto have been noticed by Eddie Thomson? Not a chance!

What opportunity is there for regional clubs to gain the attention of the wider media when SBS programmes fronted by soccer aficionados Les Murray and Kyle Patterson are not giving equal coverage to all teams in the league?

Leon Stepowski,
Ferny Hills, Qld.

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Tasmania started a trend

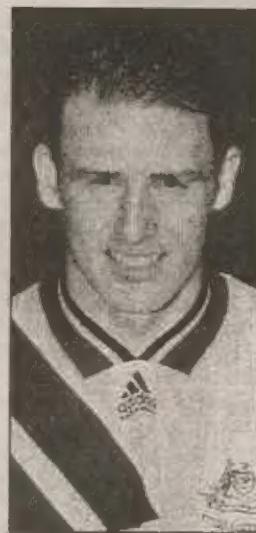
Dear Sir,
One of your regular correspondents, Dr Peter Bayliss, stated in a letter-to-the-editor on February 6, 1996, that "ABSW does not even cover Tasmania. Maybe they should!"

I wholeheartedly endorse Dr Bayliss's comments. Tasmania is an Australian State and, at present, ABSW has correspondents in the other five States.

ABSW did have a correspondent in a sixth State, namely Tasmania, until 1994. Mr Walter Pless, the soccer writer for Tasmania's "The Mercury" newspaper, who also contributes occasionally to the prestigious London-based magazine "World Soccer", arguably the finest English language soccer magazine in the world, was ABSW's Tasmanian correspondent for 13 years.

He originally wrote for ABSW under the pen name "Van Dieman", then wrote for some years under his real name. In 1994, ABSW apparently decided that it would no longer cover Tasmania and Mr Pless's by-line disappeared.

If ABSW is to live up to its name, Tasmania deserves to be covered in its columns. Tasmania's



Dominic Longo: Learned his basic soccer in his home State before polishing his skills at the AIS.

population is only about 480,000 and I doubt whether many copies of ABSW are sold in the southern State, but Tasmania's contribution to Australian soccer cannot be denied.

Dominic Longo and Kurt Reynolds are both from Tasmania and both have captained Australia at youth level and played successfully in the National League. Longo has played in Europe, was vice-captain of the Olyroos and

now stars for Marconi.

David Clarkson, who played in England and in Hong Kong is from Tasmania. The Conkie twins, Shaun and Adam, are currently playing for Morwell Falcons' youth team.

There are many more player who spent time playing in Tasmania before carving out successful careers on the mainland. Steve Darby, the assistant coach at UTS Olympic, spent a decade playing and coaching in Tasmania before his appointment as the ASF's development officer.

Tasmania started the trend that has led to Japanese teams conducting their pre-season training camps in Australia when it hosted Nagoya Grampus Eight, complete with Gary Lineker, for a month in 1993. Since then, the Tasmanian State team only lost 1-2 to Victoria and 4-5 to New South Wales in Hobart.

ABSW should resume its coverage of the Tasmanian scene so that it truly does live up to its complete title, which is Australian and British Soccer Weekly. Tasmania is one of Australia's six States and should not be ignored.

**Jeremy Trenham,
Sandy Bay, Tas.**

New pair of eyes sees shortcomings

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate Geoff Scott on his letter in ABSW on January 30.

It was interesting that, he, the new boy on the block, was viewing soccer through unbiased eyes... remembering Hans Christian Andersen's story of "The King's New Clothes", the Kings devotees could see that he had nothing on, but nobody was game enough to openly admit the truth for fear of reprisals.

Yes Geoff, the soccer fraternity can see the wood from the trees, however, as someone once said: "There are none so blind as those who will not see," and we, the so called 'long time loyal disciples of Australian soccer' (as in my case since 1945) are aware of the short

comings and its non-acceptance by the Australian public in general and the media in particular.

If there is to be a General Public Acceptance of soccer in Australia, then we must accept our shortcomings and change or ways or ultimately perish in our own self centred ideals based on diminishing financial support.

As with the other major football codes we have to be able to identify each team with a large district / Town / City which is capable of attracting all nationalities irrespective of their origins, to the common cause, for the love and the advancement of soccer into the mainstream of accepted Oz sport.

Geoff Scott stated that in a few years the competition will read:

1 — Brisbane Broncos

Soccer Club. 2 — Manly Warringah Soccer Club, etc. Geoff, there has been a Manly Warringah Soccer Club in one form or another for over 40 years (we are in the telephone book), now the good news is that an application is currently before the ASF for Manly Warringah Sea Hawks Soccer Club to be included in the forthcoming National Summer Competition. The home games will be played at Brookvale Oval.

This 'New Club' has the blessing and full support of Warringah Council, Manly Warringah Association, Manly Warringah Soccer Club and the Manly Warringah District Soccer Football Club.

**Barry W. Broadway,
President,
M.W.D.S.F.C. Ltd**

Flares & wrong flags spoil games image

Dear Sir,

There have been many positives to come out of the 1995/96 Ericsson Cup. Increased crowds and media coverage have been well documented and there is burgeoning interest in next season's competition.

It seems however that there is still much work to be done. It is the "little" things that are probably of greatest concern, the things that the casual or would-be fan would notice in passing and which would help them form an opinion on the state of Aussie soccer.

The image the game presents is obviously vital in attracting new spectators.

Thus it is disappointing that the game's image was dulled for so long by the lethargic judiciary system which seemed to take an eternity to sort out the melees involving Marconi and Sydney United and then Newcastle and Melbourne Knights.

The ongoing negative publicity was not welcome.

SB's "Ericsson Cup" program (11/2) also highlights some problems.

There was the "trivial" matter of West Adelaide's Pablo Cardozo taking six or so running paces to deliberately elbow referee Papanicolas out of the way after Ndongo-Keller's goal.

There wasn't a word from the commentators nor did there seem to be any action taken.

In any other code such actions would not be tolerated and the player would be dealt with swiftly and harshly, and rightly so.

Do we leave kids with the message that in soccer it is okay to assault the referee if you don't like what he is doing?

The program also bore witness to the tarnishing of the great Sydney United v Olympic game with the sight of numerous flares and the odd firecracker thrown at players and officials.

Also present were the ubiquitous foreign flags.

True, I wasn't there and for all I know there may have been rows of Aussie flags and a stirring rendition of "Advance Australia Fair" before kick-off.

The point is anyone watching the game for the first time would only have seen an outpouring of foreign nationalism with a couple of hooligans thrown in.

Would this attract new fans? Would it bring families to games?

Rightly or wrongly it is on such images that opinions of the game are formed. Yes, for all the good done this season there is still much work ahead if we are to attract mainstream Australia.

**Stephen Plummer,
Caloundra, Qld.**

Impressed with Olympic & ABSW

Dear Sir,

Having arrived back in Australia in November 1994 after spending 20 years in Ireland, I have only now decided to write a letter to you about the state of Australian Football.

First of all why do Australians and Americans call this great game soccer when everyone else in the world knows the real name is Football?

Secondly, I was appalled at the expulsion of three National League Clubs from the Ericsson Cup for this season. This would never have happened anywhere else in the world without a bit of notice, say one season.

I arrived here from Ireland and wanted to support one team so I chose Parramatta Eagles even though I haven't got a car and was living in Hurstville.

I found them to be a homely club and enjoy their football. Without going into the three clubs being thrown out again I just have one thing to say "disgraceful".

Thirdly trying to go and watch Sydney United and Marconi Fairfield is an ordeal in itself.

Without a car it is near impossible to get back to Fairfield station after a match. Why Mr Hill are there two teams in Fairfield and one in the rest of Sydney?

Anyway on the good side I have watched UTS Olympic a lot this season. I am very impressed, not only with them but with all the football I have seen so far and also crowds are huge at some games.

I am not going into the ethnic thing, but I do not agree with the clubs being Italian, Croatian or Greek but then again if I did I wouldn't be seen dead at a match in this country unless Wollongong were playing Brisbane every week.

Your paper is an excellent publication, keep up the good work.

**John O'Brien,
Ashfield, NSW.**

What does ethnic mean?

Dear Sir,
Your paper seems to focus to a large degree on 'ethnic bashing', as some would call it. I would like to enter into the debate by offering the following points:

i) The term 'ethnic' is a 'red herring'. The argument is not about ethnicity at all. It is about monocultural Clubs (Melbourne Knights, South Melbourne, Sydney United, etc.) as opposed to multicultural Clubs (Brisbane, Newcastle, etc.). So let's get the terminology right. OK?

iii) Also remember that the cultural debate is really only for Sydney and Melbourne (and possibly Adelaide). Brisbane, Newcastle, Canberra, Wollongong and Morwell have already embraced multiculturalism. OK, so apart from Brisbane these clubs aren't setting the soccer world alight at the moment, but if these cities had tried a monocultural approach, they wouldn't exist at all in the National League, either due to the selection process or due to the lack of a community support base. Now if only Sydney and Melbourne would show some vision and follow suit!

ii) I tend to agree with a lot of the moments from Bayliss, Wizgier, et al. However, these people should "put up or shut up". Those who support the idea of a metropolitan multicultural club step-up should prove their point in the only way possible. Get involved in a purely multicultural Club in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, get it into the National League and see if your dream of a powerful, highly successful, well supported Club eventuates. Of course, many current monocultural clubs would probably think this idea would fail. Succeed or fail, at least the debate would be over.

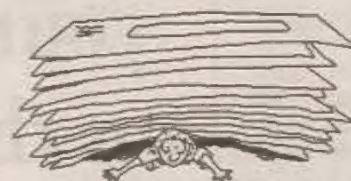
What would you do with the monocultural Clubs, I hear you ask? Nothing. Let the paying public decide. If the franchise system approach to the National League is maintained, I think the monocultural clubs will simply not survive the intense competition from multicultural clubs and will gradually drop out. As a valuable soccer resource, past, present and future, these 'mono' clubs do however, have an important place in the overall soccer makeup. I believe that in time they will gradually become just social soccer clubs as their support base dwindles.

Oh and I also think it is a case of "beware the monocultural club wearing an AFL or ARL disguise."

Steve Bradbury,
Lakelands NSW.

Letters to the Editor

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Idiocy of suggestion is obvious to anyone

Dear Sir,

As an Australian of convict (English) origins I am writing to express my support for Joseph Hovanjec's suggestion (ABSW 13/2/96) that players of Anglo-Saxon origins only may play in the National League.

I have long strived to gain a place in my local club team; however, now thanks to Mr Hovanjec, perhaps I may one day wear the green and gold?

The idiocy of such a suggestion is obvious to any intelligent person.

Taking his suggestion further, the Australian national team that successfully defeated Japan in Melbourne would consist of: Paul Wade, Warren Spink, Matthew Bingley and Robbie Hooker.

The Brisbane Strikers perhaps would not be displeased by such a proposal. Unfortunately, the club's leading goalscorer and former international, Frank Farina, would have to limit himself to media appearances. Similarly, unfortunately for Mr Hovanjec, he could not play the World Game until he changed his surname. Still, at least there wouldn't be any 'ics' or 'skis' playing the game.

Melbournians may no longer complain about not receiving internationals in their city. Brisbane managed 14,000 in a friendly against Columbia on a Wednesday night, yet Melbourne couldn't get 5,000 in a revenge match against a full-strength Japan team.

For this reason I keenly await the entrance of a 'non-ethnic' AFL backed team into the National



Matt Bingley: His Anglo-Saxon name would allow him to play for Australia if a suggestion was taken up.

League. I will happily eat my words when this club receives more supporters than currently attend Somers Street or Lakeside Stadium.

Finally to the crunch of the matter: why is it that Australia's best players are from non-Anglo Saxon backgrounds? The answer is simple. Such players have a football tradition in their culture, whereas I know personally the Anglo-Saxon culture is for cricket and either rugby or Australian Rules football.

I had a dream, the dream was that supporters of the World Game ceased denigrating other supporters because of their ethnic background,

and started working together on moving the game forward. If only dreams could come true, football could gain its proper place in Australia's sporting endeavours.

**Anthony Fensom
Highgate Hill, Qld.**

AUSSIE AT WALSHALL

Dear Sir,
In reply to the February 7 enquiry from Cameron Atfield Qld.

The Aussie in Walsall's team, as I understand, is Scott Houghton ex Sir Joseph Banks HS and Australian Schools 1988 and 1989.

He toured the UK with Australian Schools in 1988-89 in the same team as Steve Corica (Wolves), David Seal (Bristol City) and Tony Vidmar (NAC Breda, Holland). Of English birth he spent a couple of seasons with Tottenham Hotspur, playing a few first team games but was mostly a fringe player.

**L. Hewison,
Sydney Convener
Commonwealth Bank Bill
Turner Cup**

Weakness exposed

Dear Sir,
The Australian National Soccer team weakness is coach, Eddie Thomson:
1. He chooses too many over the hill players.
2. Lots of players are playing out of their natural position, in comparison to where they are playing, for their clubs.
3. With his ultra negative defensive system, it is very hard to score goals!

**Robert Marton,
St Marys. NSW.**

Australia gallant against pacey Swedes

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

AUSTRALIA after being totally outplayed by a very mobile and tightly co-ordinated Sweden in the first session of last Wednesday night's international clash at the Sydney Football Stadium, hit back with a vast difference in the second half and were unquestionably unfortunate not to have taken the match which ultimately ended in a scoreless but nevertheless exciting draw.

Sweden who finished third at USA 94, taught Australia valuable lessons in the first session including the very high levels of fitness that international football today demands, and the ability to retain possession whilst playing a mobile game.

Perth referee, Eddie Lennie, punished Australia when he denied the 'Green and Gold' a certain penalty right on the hour mark when Australia's ace-striker Graham Arnold was mowed down in the box by Sweden's skipper and right-back Roland Nilsson.

Having escaped certain death in the first half when Sweden unleashed a display of ruthlessly mobile football, Australia bounced back gallantly in the second half mainly due to coach Eddie Thomson making three substitutions.

Australia's midfield authority was non-existent in the first half which understandably paralysed the effectiveness of Australia's twin strikeforce of Arnold and Joe Spiteri.

Midfielders Robbie Slater and Milan Blagojevic greatly disappointed with flat performances.

But Australia broke out and came alive from the moment Paul Wade came off the bench in the 57th minute.

Wade instantly injected fire into the game as he organised Australia's midfield together with Arnold who had also dropped back into the 'gear-box' line. With fighting Damion Mori mixing it upfront, the 'Green and Gold' was back from the dead.

Then when Thomson made his fourth change and brought on the super-intelligent Paul Trimboli in the 74th minute for a tiring Tiatto, Australia had Sweden on the ropes.

Wade and Trimboli repeatedly won balls in the middle and provided service upfront that had the Swedes turning.

Sweden's World Cup goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli late in the match had to make a backward dive and trap the ball right on the goal-line and against his right post to deny Australia a winner.



Paul Wade: When brought on in the second half made a big difference.

In the first half Sweden's striker Andreas Andersson, scorer of a brace in the first match, was denied a clear chance inside the goal area by a sliding tackle from mobile left back Danny Tiatto.

Australia's disappointed coach, Eddie Thomson, having seen his team denied a blatant penalty which the whole country clearly witnessed, later could only reflect, "These things happen to us as we try to be too neutral to all visiting teams.

"But as far as the match went, the first half they sat back and we couldn't open them up. We are not used to playing at their pace and against such quality passing. But in the second half we quickened things up but still Sweden made it difficult for us to play," ended Thomson who later also went on to comment on how disappointed he is with the general level of fitness of his home based players.

Midfielder Robbie Slater reflected, "I felt my hamstring tighten up and asked Eddie to take me off as I have to be fit for West Ham when I get back. I was very disappointed."

Sweden's captain and right defender, Roland Nilsson quietly stated at the after-match Press conference, "Our legs, late in the second half, started to become very heavy. Australia fought well especially in the second half."

Sweden's master coach, Tommy Svensson stated, "We had an excellent first half with a lot of possession but Australia played much better in the second half and we had to do some good counter-attacking here."

"We had many young and inexperienced players and these two matches against Australia on tour, helped us a lot."

Australia's veteran striker and skipper for this match, Graham Arnold, in answering why Australia was denied a penalty, dryly hit back with, "The referee has blown it."

"I thought it was a 100% penalty as I'm not a diver."

AUSTRALIA: Kalac, Muscat (Lozanovski 46th), Tobin, Ivanovic, Popovic, Tiatto (Trimboli 74th), Slater (Mori 46th), Blagojevic (Wade 57th), Polak, Arnold, Spiteri.

SWEDEN: Ravelli, Roland Nilsson, Lucic, Jacobsson, Michael Nilsson, Alexandersson, Mild, Vibran, Landberg, Andersson (Jonsson 70th), Erlingmark.

SCORERS: Nil.

YELLOW CARDS: Australia: Spiteri (75). Sweden: Landberg (16).

CROWD: 13,905.

REFEREE: E. Lennie.



Milan Ivanovic: Masterly performance which belied his veteran status.

Kamasz returns to the fold



Peter Russell: His wide experience will be invaluable in his new Technical Director role.

Baseball supremo Stefan Kamasz has resigned to return to his former role as general manager of the Australian national soccer league.

The Australian Baseball League last week announced that Kamasz had resigned after two years as general manager.

Kamasz had previously spent six years as national soccer league general manager and will be returning almost eight years after his decision to leave.

"I'm leaving baseball with regret particularly at this stage of its development," said Kamasz.

"But the career opportunity being provided to me by Soccer Australia, together with my knowledge of that sport, have led me to this important decision."

During his term with baseball, Kamasz said the sport had increased its



media exposure, gained valuable sponsors and had made more people aware of the sport.

Kamasz said he was looking forward to his new position because of the perception that the game has advanced tremendously, particularly since the election of David Hill as Soccer Australia chairman.

"The game is on the move and it has always been my first love, despite my feelings for baseball," he said.

"It did not have the resources before to do the job properly but now that Soccer Australia has expanded, the opportunity exists to approach the

game in a more business-like fashion."

Kamasz will leave baseball on March 15 and will take a few weeks break before assuming his new position with the national soccer league.

The current Ericsson Cup general manager Peter Russell will take up the newly created position of Soccer Australia technical director.

Russell's appointment will see the development of world standards within Australian soccer being adopted.

Areas of responsibility include stadium development and standards, competition including rules, fixtures and administration, disciplinary matters, playing relations and fair play.

Peter brings a wide experience in this area having been involved with the National League since its inception in 1977.

Peter Ritchie: young man on the move

BY DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle Breakers latest recruit, defender Peter Ritchie, has shown plenty of ability and talent since joining the club in late January.

The 18 year old, who hails from Albury in southern NSW, has just finished a two year stint at the Australian Institute of Sport (A.I.S) in Canberra. Ritchie's coach at the (A.I.S), Ron Smith, had a word to Breakers coach John Kosmina about the quality of the player.

Kosmina had his first look at Ritchie when the (A.I.S) side played the Newcastle youth team last year. "Kossie (Kosmina) had talks with me over the Christmas break," Ritchie said.

"After that I was asked to come and trial out for the Breakers.

Since arriving in Newcastle, Ritchie has played three Ericsson Cup matches and has played in all the Johnny Walker Cup games.

"I attend TAFE two days a week and work at the Breakers club for the other three days," he said.

Ritchie said he has enjoyed himself since arriving in Newcastle. "Everybody has been so friendly and helpful. I'm glad I made the move to the Breakers."

Ritchie's main aim for the rest of the season is to play as many senior games as possible.

However as he says the game is a different standard in Newcastle. At the AIS he played in the Youth League.

He confesses that it took him a couple of games to get used to the pace and the physical side of the Ericsson Cup.

Ritchie gives most of the credit for his progress in the game so far to his coach in Albury Peter Galanakis.

"He coached me from under 10s to under 16s," he said.

"My parents David and Leonie didn't know much about soccer, but they were very supportive.

"When I played in the under 15s national championships in Brisbane I met the (A.I.S) coach Ron Smith.

"He rang me a week later in Albury and asked me to go for trials in Canberra," Ritchie concluded.

Ritchie hopes to gain selection in the Australian Youth side in the near future.

Breakers coach John Kosmina had plenty of injury problems for last Friday night's match against South Melbourne.

The Breakers were without defenders Steve Hickman and Darren Stewart, midfielder Gary Wilson and strikers Clayton Zane and Harry James.

Hickman and Zane were serving suspensions, while Stewart returned to his Malaysian club Johore, Wilson and James missed the match through injury.

The Breakers face a hectic month of soccer when they play all the top eight teams.

The Breakers play Adelaide City tonight, Tuesday at Hindmarsh Stadium before returning to Breakers Stadium on Friday night to take on UTS Olympic.

With Rupert Murdoch's Super League apparently scuttled and the Hunter Mariners franchise marooned, Newcastle's Ericsson Cup team, the Breakers, are smiling.

As part of a deal to use Breakers Stadium as a playing headquarters the Mariners undertook capital works at the ground costing more than \$600,000.

Much of the work has been done over the past few weeks and Mariners boss Bob Ferris guaranteed the project would be completed.

MORWELL FALCONS

Fijian striker ready to fire



Fiji striker Esala Masi has the ability to take the National League by storm, according to coach Harry Bingham.

Masi, Fiji's under 23 captain, who starred in last month's Oceania Olympic qualifiers in Adelaide, was expected to make his long-awaited debut for the Falcons in their NSL match against Canberra Cosmos in Morwell last Saturday night.

Bingham said Masi had finally secured an international clearance and promised the striker would dazzle crowds with his one-touch skills.

"He's definitely the best player to come out of Fiji," said Bingham.

"He will be a revelation. He's great to watch with his lovely moves and intelligence on the ball."

"He's not looking for options like other players. He just has this natural willingness to strike the

ball."

Bingham said the youngster attracted plenty of interest when he first came to the Latrobe Valley club for a pre-season trial. He was also being courted by UTS Olympic coach David Ratcliffe.

"He's still a bit shaken up and is not all himself at the moment," said Bingham.

Meanwhile, Bingham has confirmed Morwell is interested in recruiting disgruntled South Melbourne stopper Mike Valkanis.

The Australian under 23 international is frustrated with his lack of senior appearances with Souths (only 10 games this season) and has had talks with Bingham.

"I don't want to rock the boat too much with South Melbourne but he is an Australian Olympic player who's got a lot of potential," said Bingham.

"At the moment he's a bit disillusioned because he's not even getting a game off the bench."



Michael Valkanis: A move to Morwell could be on the agenda.

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Stowell welcomes interstate competition

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Strikers coach Bruce Stowell has praised Soccer Australia's decision to stage a national series between all states and territories after the Ericsson Cup final in June.

However, Stowell, who has been promoting such a format since his days as the Queensland director of coaching several years ago, has urged Soccer Australia to implement a

State of Origin type series.

Soccer Australia boss David Hill confirmed the national series while in Brisbane last week to launch the Queensland Soccer Federation's XXXX League competition.

Hill said the make up of the competition was yet to be determined and the matter of whether it would be an interstate competition or State of Origin would be discussed



with local federations.

However, Hill said the early consensus from federations leaned towards a State of Origin concept used successfully in recent years by Queensland and New South Wales.

Hill was also confident the competition, to be conducted on a round robin basis, would attract national television coverage.

"Subject to fine tuning we intend to start immediately after the Ericsson Cup grand final in June," Hill said.

Stowell has called for a nation wide competition, similar to cricket's Sheffield Shield, for many years and is pleased the concept finally is coming to fruition.

"It will be interesting to see the final format," Stowell said.

"I believe the only true interstate competition should be State of Origin."

"It helps the small states and territories and makes for a fair competition."

"New South Wales and Victoria could pull a great side together from all their Ericsson Cup teams but the smaller States could struggle unless it's a State of Origin format."



WOLLONGONG

Trainees selected by Wolves

BY PHIL MURPHY



Wollongong have announced the three players who will become the club's trainees. AIS graduates Steve Laybutt and Billy Gjakovski have been selected along with Colin Luff.

Club chairman Brian Hastings told ABSW his board was right behind the scheme.

"Its introduction is perfectly timed," Hastings said.

"We have to be extremely confident it will plug the exodus of our best players overseas."

"The aim is for all clubs to have a fully professional setup and Wollongong will be part of that."



Colin Luff: One of three full-time trainees selected at Brandon Park.

Wollongong may be struggling at the bottom of the table but other clubs would envy their run home.

They have 11 games to play and seven of them are at Brandon Park.

That is one reason why coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is confident his team will move into a respectable position by the end of April.

Experienced defender George Jolevski has quit the Wolves.

Jolevski is keen to stay in Wollongong and should sign with Illawarra Lions this week.

That would allow him to make his Super League debut against Canterbury at Brandon Park on Sunday.

Jolevski played in the National League with Preston, Marconi and Juventus before joining Wolves at the start of the season.

Lions coach Glenn Fontana told ABSW he was very keen to sign Jolevski.

"I don't have a very big squad and George would be a real asset," Fontana said.

"My defence looked a lot better against St George after two bad performances to start the season."

Fontana has a number of ex-Wolves in his squad, including Stuart McLaren, Anthony Guido, Fabio Maccolino, Steve Angelov and Peter Murray.

Waiting in the wings are Richard Lloyd and Sasho Dimoski — both ready to join the Lions at the end of the Ericsson Cup season.

Rangy defender Steve Forshaw never gets asked to join lottery syndicates.

No wonder when you analyse his run of injuries and sickness since he signed with the Wolves.

A product of the Bulli club, Forshaw was given his chance by former Wollongong coach David Ratcliffe four years ago.

Since then, he seems to have spent more time on the sideline than on the field.

At the weekend, Forshaw was out with an ankle injury and missed the away game against Melbourne Knights.

It was originally diagnosed as a minor ankle injury but it now seems Forshaw will be out of the side for some time.

Bad news for coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, who thought he had a settled defence.

Good news for big Joe Vrkic, who held his spot in the side against the Knights.

ADELAIDE CITY

Younger players under close scrutiny

BY PETER KRUPKA

Adelaide City's rebuilding program is set to progress to a new phase with club officials ready to wield the axe on their younger players to buy proven National League stars.

Missing several key players from last year's grand final team, the current season was shaping as one of the worst for Australia's most successful club of the 1990s. The lack of success has put the Zebra's current stock of players under the spotlight.

Coach John Perin said he was disappointed the club could not give its younger brigade more chances to prove themselves and said the club would be on the search for "big name players for big dollars" before the start of next season.

"We've realised that maybe Adelaide City can't go through a rebuilding process. Supporters will not stand for it and I think the board has started to feel the pinch," Perin said.

"It's unfortunate for



some of the young players in the side but there's no future for them."

Zebra president Fred Lenzi rejected the notion that the club's "rebuilding program" had been completely abandoned.

"If we can make one or two of those (younger) guys, out of the four or five we have into squad players for next year, I think we've done our job," Lenzi said.

"We do want to assess by the end of the year which younger players we have that will make a mark in future years and they'll stay on."

"This year I believe they've had their fair go and if they haven't got what it takes in the eyes of the coach, they've got to

move on and the next batch has to come in."

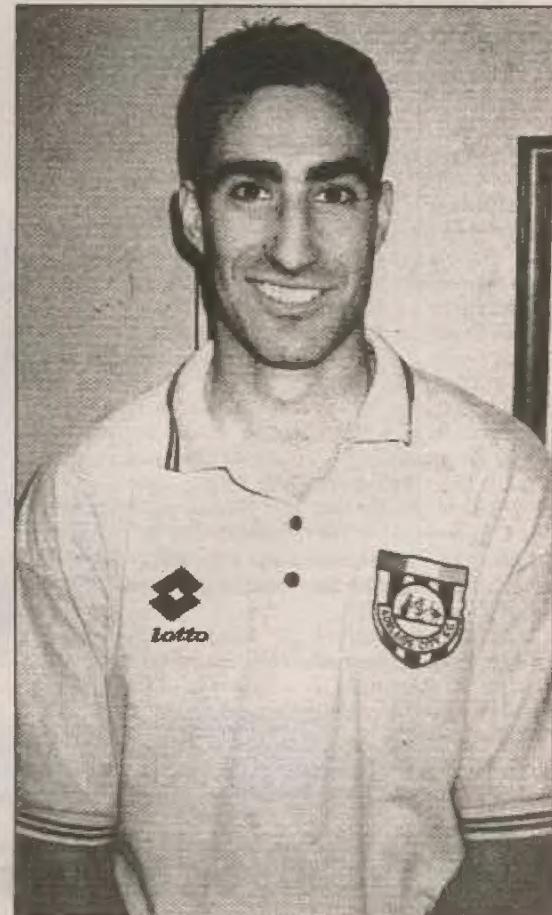
Lenzi said City remained hell bent on going fully professional and added it had to keep the club attractive and be able to afford the best players in the country.

"We are a club looking to be one of the first to go professional and if we do that, obviously we know that player payments are going to increase," he said.

With Morwell's Ernie Tapai almost certain to join the Zebras before the start of the 1996-97 season, it is understood the club was out to sign at least four other proven National League players.

Lenzi said there was still a need to find players to replace Tony Vidmar (NAC Breda) and Sergio Melta and Joe Mullen (both retired) and while he doubted players of their class existed currently in the National League, the club would do its best to recruit what was needed.

"Adelaide City is not a club that's going to sit down and be a bottom or mediocre team," Lenzi said.



Tony Vidmar: One of the players that Zebras are finding hard to replace.

WEST ADELAIDE

Third session of surgery for Cyrille

BY PETER KRUPKA

Cyrille Ndongo-Keller's injury-plagued season is set to continue with the feisty striker ruled out for up to six weeks after a third operation on his troubled right knee last week.

The recurrence of the knee problem came at a bad time for the West Adelaide fans who had been reminded of the Cameroon international's genius in the two comeback games he played before being sidelined again.

He came off the bench to score the winner against Canberra in his first game back and then followed it with a stunning hat-trick against Wollongong.

He admitted he was playing at only 60 per cent capacity in those games, and was aware during that time all was not well with his damaged knee.

"I was hoping after a few games I would get back to 100 per cent but I knew there was something wrong," Keller said.



The 22-year-old had an arthroscopy last Wednesday to remove floating cartilage from the knee which had been operated on twice before.

"I'd never been to hospital before, now I have been there three times in the last nine months," he said.

Keller, who was thankful no ligament damage had been done to his knee, remained hopeful the injury was now fixed once and for all and was looking forward to having a strong finish to the National League season with the Sharks.

As well as keeping him inactive for virtually all the National League season, the injury deprived Keller of a



Cyrille Ndongo-Keller: Out for further six weeks with troublesome right knee.

chance to represent his country in the African Nations Cup finals in South Africa.

He rated missing the tournament as the biggest

disappointment of his fledgling career.

"Everything came at a bad time. The African Nations Cup was a big thing for me," he said.

"The (Cameroon) coach was keeping in touch with me knowing I was going through a hard time and telling me I would be okay."

"I left a good impression when I was there (in Cameroon) last and I would never have gone there to sit on the bench — I had a good chance to play regularly."



Touring Japanese side Urawa Red Diamonds left Adelaide with a smile after beating West Adelaide 1-0 at Hindmarsh Stadium last Tuesday night.

Masayuki Okano scored in the 35th minute to give the J-League side the win.



Hughes denies Knights bigger win

**MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS 1
WOLLONGONG
CITY 0**

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

Melbourne Knights hung on for a 1-0 win over Wollongong City thanks to a missed penalty in injury time on Sunday at the Croatian Sports Centre.

Ljupco Naumovski earned the spot kick when he was brought down by Knights sweeper Joe Simunic.

Frank Juric, who saved Alex Tobin's penalty two weeks ago, wasn't even troubled as Naumovski blasted the shot high over the bar and into the social club.

A draw for the Wolves probably would've been an injustice as the Knight's wasted clear cut chance after chance.

This was due mainly to a

SCORER: Knights: Spiteri (47)
YELLOW CARDS: Knights: Marth (45), Tiatto (55)
Wollongong: Pollari (11), O'Shea (49), Lloyd (53)
POY: 3-Hughes (Wollongong), 2-Spiteri (Knights), 1-Simunic (Knights)
CROWD: 3,890
REFEREE: J. Papanicolas

freakish display of goalkeeping by Brett Hughes who made at least six outstanding saves to deny the Knights.

Hughes was beaten two minutes into the second half by Joe Spiteri when he swung in Danny Tiatto's cross.

Knights coach Ian Dobson was disappointed with the conversion of the numerous chances his side had.

"We were a bit fortunate with the missed penalty but

the game should been well and truly tied up by that stage.

"We had eight good chances that you can't afford not to put away.

If they had scored the penalty then all the hard work in the 90 minutes would've been forgotten.

"The keeper had a blinder but some of our shots were poorly directed, from three or four metres they were sticking them straight at him."

Hughes started his single battle with the Knights early on when he saved from Tom Podeljak and continued it at regular intervals until well into stoppage time when he denied the same player in a similar situation.

Wollongong only threatened on two other occasions besides the penalty.

Richard Lloyd forced Frank Juric into his only save of the afternoon in the 33rd minute but couldn't do the same four minutes later when the chance was better.

Naumovski's floated free-kick was nodded down by Mario Jermen but Lloyd following in headed over the bar.

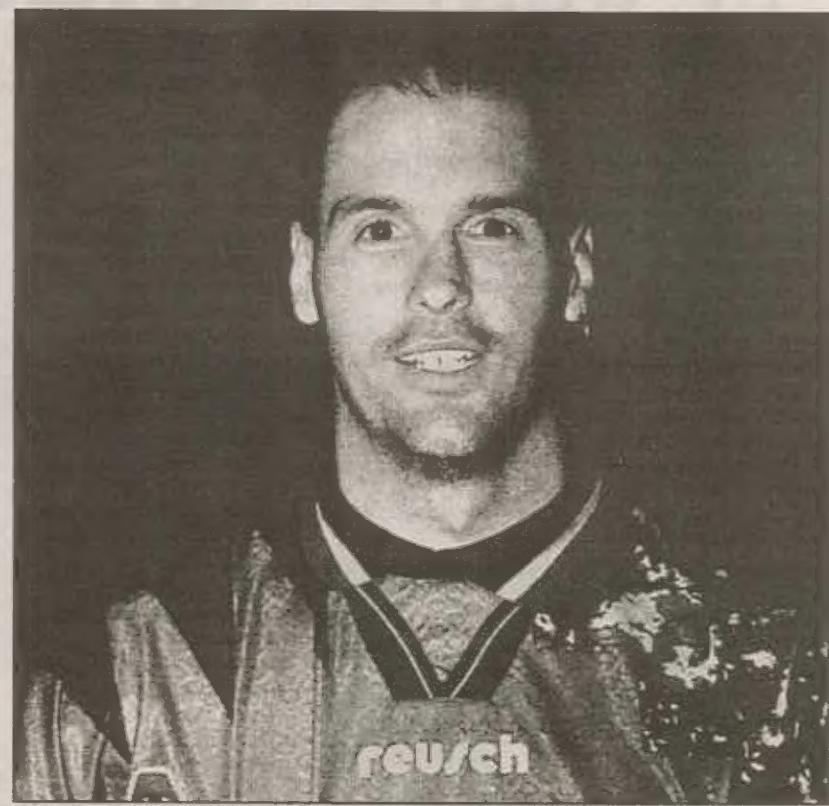
The Knights seemingly endless injury nightmare continued when Fausto De Amicis had to be replaced at half time with a recurrence of a coked thigh.

He now seems in doubt for the midweek deferred game against Morwell Falcons in the Latrobe Valley.

One positive for Dobson is the possible return of championship winning midfielder Kresimir Marusic within a couple of weeks.

KNIGHTS: Juric, Buljubasic, DeAmicis, (Kutlesovski HT), Cervinski, Marth, Simunic, Spiteri, Lapsansky (Nastevski 85), Tiatto, Kovacevic, Podeljak.

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Horsley (Petratos 77), Naumovski, Perinich, Lloyd, Bonetig, Jermen (Luff 71), O'Shea, Pollari, Ceccoli (Gjakovski 63), Vrkic.



Brett Hughes: Made over six outstanding saves enabling Wolves to nearly snatch a point.

Breakers come home strongly

**NEWCASTLE
BREAKERS 4
SOUTH
MELBOURNE 2**

BY DANE SKAFTE

Two goals by Breakers captain David Lowe gave Newcastle a well deserved 4-2 win against the highly fancy South Melbourne side last Friday night in the Ericsson Cup.

Newcastle opened the scoring in the thirty third minute after David Lowe made a solo run to the penalty area with only the keeper to beat.

Lowe made no mistake with his cracking drive which gave keeper Michael Petkovic little chance.

The Breakers 1-0 lead was short-lived after a corner kick found striker Nick Orlac unmarked on the edge of the area.

His well judged header beat Newcastle keeper Craig Carter to level the scores at 1-1, just on the half time whistle.

The Breakers came out fired up in the second half and dominated both in the air and on the ground.

Newcastle took the lead in the 48th minute after some good ball work by midfielder Troy Halpin who narrowed the angle down and knocked the ball into the net.

SCORERS: Newcastle: Lowe (33, 74 pen), Halpin (48), Bennett (89) Orlac (45), Baser (89)
YELLOW CARDS: Newcastle: Roberts (61), Halpin (77). South: Blatsis (74)
POY: 3-Halpin (Newcastle), 2-Lowe (Newcastle), 1-Triboli (South)
CROWD: 2,621
REFEREE: G. Connolly

South kept pressuring the Newcastle defence and caught the Breakers off guard several



David Lowe: His double helped Newcastle climb off the bottom.

times. Lowe scored his second goal of the match in the seventy fourth minute after South defender Con Blatsis handled the ball in the area.

Referee Connelly pointed to the spot and Lowe slotted the ball into the right hand corner.

Newcastle rubbed salt into the visitors side after Jason Bennett put the issue beyond doubt in the final minute of the match.

South got a consolation goal thanks to Tansel Baser just on the full time whistle.

A very happy Newcastle coach John Kosmina said after the game, "We opened them (South Melbourne) up tonight because we play very confidently at home".

"Troy Halpin played well so did Ralph Maier we created chances tonight that is what made a difference."

A disappointed Frank Arok said, "We didn't take our opportunities and we suffered the consequences."

"Newcastle are a hard side to play at home and that was the difference tonight between winning and losing."

NEWCASTLE: Carter, Sanderson, Maier, Roberts, Lowe, Halpin, Bennett, Thomas, Pryce, Sprod, Ritchie.

SOUTH: Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos (Damianos), Triboli, Sherifovski (Baser HT), Petersen, Knezevic, (Curcija HT), Alsopp, Muscat, Orlac.

Hard fought draw in Latrobe Valley

**MORWELL
FALCONS 1
CANBERRA
COSMOS 1**

Canberra Cosmos and Morwell Falcons played out a hard fought 1-1 draw in their National League clash at Morwell Falcons Park last Saturday night in an entertaining match.

Referee Con Diomis handed out eight yellow cards and a red when he sent off Morwell defender Scott Miller in the 41st minute.

The home side, which suffered a 5-0 drubbing at the hands of Canberra in their previous encounter, had the Cosmos on the back foot for most of the first half, forcing the play mainly in Morwell's attacking area.

Former Morwell and now Cosmos goalkeeper Steve Mautone was called on to save the visitors on many occasions.

Morwell had an opportunity to score in the 10th minute when Miller's shot from just outside the penalty box missed the right upright by millimetres.

The home side was unlucky again one minute later when Michael Reda's shot hit the crossbar.

The Falcons continued

SCORERS: Morwell: Masi (36)
Canberra: Lemezina (57)
YELLOW CARDS: Morwell: Canosa (17), Reda (37), Bothwell (83), Tapai (86)
Canberra: N. Popovich (8), T. Popovich (21), Perinovic (36), Lemezina (86)
RED CARD: Morwell: Miller (41)

POY: 3-Marcina (Morwell), 2-Perinovic (Canberra), 1-Reda (Morwell)
CROWD: 2,182
REFEREE: C. Diomis

their attacking game with newcomer 21-year-old Fijian import Esala Masi showing patches of brilliance up front.

In the 36th minute, Brian Bothwell's shot from a short distance hit the crossbar, Masi took the rebound and shot the ball past 'keeper Mautone to put the home side in front.

Miller's sending off minutes later allowed the visitors to penetrate the Falcons' defence with a great shot by Tony Lemezina brilliantly saved by Jim Kourtis.

The second half was all Canberra. The Cosmos mounted many decisive attacks and it was

only a matter of time before Morwell's defence cracked.

Several chances went begging for the visitors and in the 57th minute, Morwell keeper Kourtis fumbled the ball allowing Lemezina to control and score the easiest of goals.

Morwell coach Harry Bingham said that his side was the more dominant.

"We had our chances but couldn't finish in front of goal," he said.

MORWELL: Kourtis, Marcina, Canosa, Miller, Tapai, Sevin (Villani 81), Bothwell, Talladra (Stergiopoulos 65), Masi, Reda, Douglas.

CANBERRA: Mautone, Watson, Wade, Kelly, Perinovic, T. Popovich, Castro, Koch, Lemezina, Mazis, N Popovich.



Doug Marcina: Turned in man of the match performance against old club.



ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

United held by improving Zebras

**SYDNEY
UNITED 2
ADELAIDE
CITY 2**

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Sydney United, in a smatch for the purists, was held to a 2-2 draw last Saturday night at the Sydney Croatian Sports Centre by the rapidly improving Adelaide City.

In a match which initially appeared headed for a drab scoreless draw, eventually yielded four goals.

These two sides are arguably the League's most technically correct and balanced teams, despite their middle-order positions on the ladder.

United's pace was furious in the first session and only staunch defending by City's triple central defenders of Alex Tobin, Mark Yates and

SCORERS:

Sydney United: Zdrilic (51), Patikas (73). Adelaide: Mori (41), Foster (75). **YELLOW CARDS:** Sydney United: Bilokapic (18), Markovac (83), M. Babic (84). Adelaide: Gibson (40). **POY:** 3-Zdrilic (United), 2-Tobin (Adelaide), 1-Gibson (Adelaide). **CROWD:** 3,257. **REFEREE:** J. Fraser.

Milan Ivanovic helped the South Australians weather the Sydney storm.

Ironically, just four minutes before the break it was Johnny Perin's Adelaide City that hit the lead when blond striker Bradley Hassell surprisingly 'skinned' no less than three United defenders on the right flank before slinging in a top cross into the goal area for fellow-striker Damian Mori to nail the target.

United's Paul Bilokapic went perilously close in the 12th minute, shaving the post from 15 metres after midfield wizard, David Zdrilic had done the initial engineering.

Zdrilic himself hit the upright in the 25th minute following an excellent raid up centre-pitch by his skipper and free-back Tony Popovic.

But two minutes later, United's striker Jimmy Patikas headed over City's cross-bar after meeting a Robbie Trajkovski cross from the right, and it seemed that "Zorba's" streak of bad luck would continue. In his first nine games he had failed to find the target.

Three minutes into the second session and following a corner, United's experienced and reliable marker, Velimir Kupresak, skinned City's cross-bar but three minutes later, United hungrily 'balanced the books'

Midfielder Robbie Enes crossed from the right and a poor Adelaide City clearance saw the ball fall to the edge of the box where the in-form Zdrilic blasted a rising drive into the roof of the net.

In the 68th, Milan Ivanovic instigated a threatening Adelaide raid when he set up midfielder Craig Foster wide on the right flank to cross into United's box.

But Mori, the League's joint-top scorer, raced in at top pace to blast a drive that crashed onto the horizontal.

The hard-working but luckless Patikas finally ended his streak of 'ducks' in the 73rd minute. Chesting down a through-ball and with his back to goal, Patikas spun and exploded a lethal drive that stretched the net and lifted United for the first time into the lead.

But the "Black and Whites" were not finished and were desperate to salvage at least a draw.

In the 75th minute, City's



David Zdrilic: Equalised for United and awarded man of the match points.

young left midfielder Dino Mennillo, slung a perfect corner into United's box allowing fellow-midfielder Craig Foster to nod into the target for the precious equaliser.

But five minutes into

periods, but like tonight we showed that we get better as the season gets longer."

United's boss Branko Culina reflected, "The ball won't bounce for us, but our back-three plus Zdrilic were brilliant and we had enough chances to win it."

Meanwhile the always sceptical, yet spasmodically humorous, Perin, commented, "We went three weeks without a loss yet despite being under pressure we fought well having been forced to play catch up football at the end as we tried to catch them on the break... which we did."

UNITED: Crews, Trajkovski (Markovac 63) (Rudan 90), M. Babic, Popovic, Kupresak: Enes, Zdrilic, Milicic, Bilokapic, Z. Babic (Lamond 54), Patikas.

ADELAIDE: Petkovic, Lozanovski (Perin 79), Tobin, Ivanovic, Yates, Armour, Foster, Gibson, Mennillo (Brazzale 79), Mori, Hassell.

Strikers within sight of top

**BRISBANE
STRIKERS 3
UTS OLYMPIC 1**

BY GLENN DAVIS

Brisbane Strikers stretched their unbeaten record to eleven matches with a crushing 3-1 win over UTS Olympic at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers finished the second round of the Ericsson Cup as the only undefeated side as they demoralised the league leaders with three superb first half goals.

A double from sharpshooter Rod Brown and the goal of the season from Socceroo Jason Polak sealed the visitors fate by half time.

Olympic showed only spasmodic resistance in the opening ten minutes when they looked a highly polished and skilful side and in some patches after the break.

Polak's goal was a memorable one.

After being felled by Olympic's Peter Tsekkinis twenty five metres out, Strikers skipper Frank Farina lifted the dead ball to waist high for Polak to volley over the defensive wall into the top corner of the net.

Brown's double took his tally for the season to nine and confirms both he and Farina as possibly the league's most potent striking force.

Brown's first goal broke the deadlock in the twenty second minute after Polak and midfiel

SCORERS:

Brisbane: Brown (22, 44), Polak (24) Olympic: Tome (77). **YELLOW CARDS:** Brisbane: Zoricich (90), Jackson (66), Brayshaw (78). Olympic: Meredith (62), Barrett (69). **RED CARD:** Olympic: Ciantar (89). **POY:** 3-Brown (Brisbane), 2-Hunter (Brisbane), 1-Tome (Olympic). **CROWD:** 5,113. **REFEREE:** S. Micallef.



Jason Polak: Put away spectacular timed volley.

moves on the edge of the box before setting up their ace target man.

Farina provided Brown with his double, courtesy of a lucky break near the side line when Olympic defender Milan Blagojevic slipped over allowing Farina a free passage towards the box.

Farina fired in a pin point cross which Brown gleefully drove home with a header.

The Strikers sat back to some extent after half time but were rarely tested until the dying stages.

Olympic Striker Norman Tome missed a golden opportunity to put Olympic back in the match after earlier breaking the Striker's defence in the seventy seventh minute in a solo effort.

Tome hit an acute angled shot from thirty metres which struck the upright and rebounded to substitute Carlos Gonzales who blasted over the cross bar.

Strikers coach Bruce Stowell was elated with the result which now sees the Strikers maintain third place and within four points of the Ericsson Cup lead.

"It was an excellent result although we looked to protect our lead at half time," Stowell said.

"Olympic are a quality side and we knew we couldn't go the whole game without being put under some pressure in the second half."

BRISBANE: Bolton, Zoricich, Williams (Dittos 76), Hunter, Jackson, Farina (Tollenacere 85), Polak, Brown, Wright (Hews 61), T. Cranney, Brayshaw.

OLYMPIC: Bouhoutsos, Barrett, Ciantar, Poimer (Gonzalez 64), Tsekkinis, Tome, Trajanovski, Ardene, Meredith, Blagojevic, Zelic (Augerinos HT).

Early goal lifts Sharks to victory

**WEST
ADELAIDE 1
MARCONI
FAIRFIELD 0**

BY PETER KRUPKA

West Adelaide overcame pre-match injury and suspension setbacks to score a courageous 1-0 win over Marconi at the Hindmarsh Stadium last Sunday night.

The depleted Sharks matched the Sydney glamour side throughout the match after Jim Tsekkinis put the home side in front with a header early in the second minute.

The win denied Marconi a chance to overtake UTS Olympic at the top of the table and helped West jump Sydney United into fourth spot on the ladder.

While the Sharks defence was watertight it was Jose Iriarte who shone early. Having supplied Tsekkinis with the cross which led to the first goal, the Argentinian was a handful for the Marconi defence every time he moved forward.

He and Brazilian-born Aryton Andrioli ignited the Sharks with South American flair and experience which made them such attractive recruits for West coach Raul Blanco.

Both relished the chance to make the starting line-up with six of the Sharks' regulars

SCORERS:

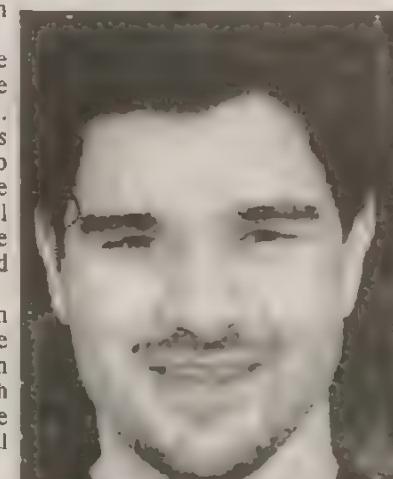
West: Tsekkinis (2). **YELLOW CARDS:** West: (Aloisi 63), Tsekkinis (87). Marconi: Holst (75). **POY:** 3-Jose Iriarte (West), 2-Robbie Hooker (West), 1-Andrew Harper (Marconi). **CROWD:** 4,569. **REFEREE:** E. Brazzale.

out injured or suspended.

Andrioli looked certain to get on the scoresheet when he cleverly chipped Marconi keeper Bob Catlin from 25 metres but the post saved the visitors.

Earlier West skipper Robbie Hooker drove a sweet shot from 30 metres with the outside of his right foot which travelled wide of the post.

While West's best assaults on goal were from long range,



Jim Tsekkinis: 20-year-old proved a handful for Marconi.

Tsekkinis worked his way into the penalty area for a shot on goal late in the first half which bounced off Catlin's chest before it was cleared to safety.

The young striker rocked the crossbar with another effort five minutes before full time after West had soaked up much of the second half pressure.

But Marconi showed its credentials as a championship contender with numerous moves into the home side's goalmouth.

Defenders Hamilton Thorp and Robbie Slager kept Marconi dangerman Francis Awaritefe quiet in the opening half but his strike partner Andy Harper proved the visitor's most dangerous forward.

Awaritefe threaded him through for a shot at goal early in the second half but he hit it straight at 'keeper Peter Blazincic.

Midfielder Mike Smith had two chances to score with overlapping runs down the left flank in the first half. One shot was belted into the side of the net while Blazincic spectacularly saved the other.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Slager, Hooker, Tibaldi, Iriarte, Aloisi, Keramidas (Lekkas 83), Morrison, Thorp, Tsekkinis, Andrioli.

MARCONI: Catlin, Stanton (Darren McDonald 69), Harper, Hristodoulou (Angelucci 85), Maloney, Smith, Awaritefe, Souris, Renaud, Longo, Zoric (Holst HT).

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Newcastle Breakers

v
UTS OlympicFriday,
March 8BREAKERS
STADIUM

NEWCASTLE	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Craig Carter	G	21 (0)	0	2 (0)
Adam Fittock	G	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Adam Sanderson	D	12 (1)	0	1 (0)
Steve Hickman	D	19 (0)	0	6 (1)
Nick Johns	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ralph Maier	D	21 (0)	0	3 (0)
Glen Moore	D	8 (2)	0	2 (0)
Shane Pryce	D	9 (2)	0	4 (0)
Peter Ritchie	D	4 (0)	0	1 (0)
Andy Roberts	D	13 (0)	0	3 (0)
Glen Sprod	D	12 (3)	1	1 (0)
Darren Stewart	D	9 (0)	1	4 (0)
Gary Wilson	M	9 (0)	0	3 (0)
Craig Sharpley	M	17 (0)	0	2 (0)
Damian Brown	M	12 (4)	2	0 (0)
Troy Halpin	M	8 (3)	4	3 (0)
Scott Thomas	M	6 (6)	1	3 (0)
Jason Bennett	S	16 (1)	5	0 (0)
David Lowe	S	18 (3)	5	2 (0)
Harry James	S	3 (4)	1	0 (0)
Clayton Zane	S	13 (5)	3	3 (1)

Head to Head : Olympic 5-2-1, Goals (18-9)
Newcastle at home: 1-2-1, goals (7-9)

RECORD

NEWCASTLE

Record Score: 3-2 (H)
1993/94
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 1-3-1

OLYMPIC

Record Score: 4-0 (H)
1995/96
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-0-2

OLYMPIC	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
George Bouhoutsos	G	8 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Gibson	G	14 (0)	0	0 (0)
Scott Baillie	D	6 (1)	1	4 (0)
Dave Barrett	D	22 (0)	0	4 (0)
Milan Blagojevic	D	19 (0)	0	4 (0)
Adam Ciantar	D	20 (0)	1	0 (1)
Nick Meredith	D	18 (1)	1	8 (0)
George Sorras	D	3 (5)	0	2 (0)
Ivan Zelic	D	4 (1)	0	0 (0)
Walter Ardone	M	16 (2)	2	4 (0)
Elias Augerinos	M	3 (12)	2	1 (0)
Kris Trajanovski	M	21 (0)	17	1 (0)
Peter Tsekenis	M	21 (0)	1	3 (0)
George Valas	M	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
Raphael Bove	U	1 (3)	0	0 (0)
Alistair Edwards	S	2 (1)	0	1 (0)
Ivo De Jesus	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Norman Tome	S	21 (0)	6	4 (0)
Kim Taliadoros	S	15 (2)	5	2 (0)
Chris Slater *	S	5 (8)	1	1 (0)
Derek Poimer	S	4 (0)	2	2 (0)
Carlos Gonzalez	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

* Chris Slater's stats include 1 full and 2 substitute appearances for Brisbane.

ABSW TIPS

(52) Alistair Russell: Olympic
(49) John Economos: Newcastle
(64) Greg Blake: Olympic
(56) Con Stavros: Olympic
(44) Bob Brooks: Olympic

Brisbane Strikers

v
Marconi FairfieldSaturday,
March 9
SUNCORP
STADIUM

BRISBANE	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Clint Bolton	G	22 (0)	0	0 (0)
Andrew Brayshaw	D	9 (10)	1	3 (1)
Glen Gwynne	D	8 (0)	0	2 (0)
Alan Hunter	D	19 (0)	1	1 (0)
Steve Jackson	D	8 (1)	0	3 (0)
Chris Zoricich	D	18 (2)	3	5 (1)
Craig Williams	D	9 (6)	1	2 (0)
Mark Battistin	D	15 (2)	2	4 (0)
Sean Cranney	M	16 (0)	3	2 (0)
Troy Cranney	M	22 (0)	0	1 (0)
Brad Ditton	M	3 (4)	1	1 (0)
Chay Hews	M	0 (7)	0	0 (0)
Gary Phillips	M	17 (0)	1	1 (0)
Jason Polak	M	20 (0)	2	2 (0)
Danny Wright	M	13 (4)	1	3 (0)
Reece Tollenaire	S	1 (2)	0	0 (0)
Rod Brown	S	22 (0)	9	1 (0)
Frank Farina	S	18 (0)	12	3 (1)
Kasey Wehrman	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

Head to Head: Level 4-2-4, Goals (Mar 16-15)
Brisbane at home: 3-1-1, Goals (8-6)

RECORD

BRISBANE

Record Score: 2-0 (H)
1993/94LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-2-0

MARCONI

Record Score: 5-1 (H)
1993/94LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 4-0-1

MARCONI	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Bob Catlin	G	22 (0)	0	0 (0)
Luke Casserly	D	7 (6)	0	4 (1)
J P De Marigny	D	18 (0)	0	6 (0)
Aaron Holst	D	6 (3)	0	1 (0)
Darren Iocca	D	1 (5)	0	2 (0)
Dominic Longo	D	13 (0)	1	3 (1)
Mike Smith	D	15 (0)	5	5 (0)
Paul Souris	D	17 (4)	0	0 (0)
Robert Stanton	D	16 (5)	0	2 (0)
Gary Van Egmond	D	12 (0)	0	3 (0)
Matt Bingley	M	16 (1)	4	0 (0)
Ramon Climent	M	3 (2)	0	1 (0)
Eric Hristodoulou	M	15 (6)	3	0 (0)
Brad Maloney	M	21 (1)	5	2 (0)
Andrew Ravanello	M	0 (2)	0	1 (0)
Brendan Renaud	M	6 (6)	2	0 (0)
Vlado Zoric	M	7 (7)	0	1 (0)
Andy Harper	S	21 (0)	10	4 (0)
Francis Awaritefe	S	21 (1)	10	4 (0)
Darren McDonald	S	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
John Angelucci	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)

ABSW TIPS

(52) Alistair Russell: Draw
(49) John Economos: Draw
(64) Greg Blake: Brisbane
(56) Con Stavros: Marconi
(44) Bob Brooks: Brisbane

Morwell Falcons

v
Wollongong CitySaturday,
March 9
MORWELL
FALCON PK

RECORD

MORWELL

Record Score: 4-1 (A)

94/95 & (A) 95/96

LAST 5 MATCHES

At home: 0-2-3

WOLVES

Record Score: N/A

LAST 5 MATCHES

Away: 0-1-4

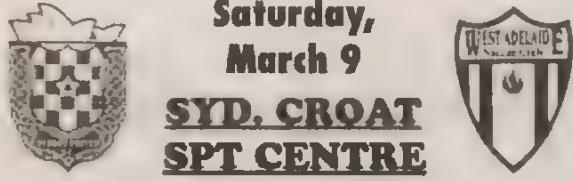
WOLVES	Pos	GMS	GLS	YC
	(1) RES		(1) RC	
Brett Hughes	G	21 (0)	0	2 (1)
Steve Angelov	G	1 (0)	0	0 (0)
Martin Bourke	D	21 (0)	0	3 (0)
Matthew Dihm	D	5 (3)	0	0 (0)
Steve Forshaw	D	11 (1)	1	2 (1)
Bill Gjakovski	D	14 (3)	1	3 (1)
Ian Pollari	D	5 (0)	0	2 (0)
George Jolevski	D	13 (3)	0	2 (1)
Richard Lloyd	D	13 (2)	0	0 (0)
Mike O'Shea	D	8 (0)	0	5 (0)
Joe Vrkic *	D	4 (1)	0	2 (0)
Paul Beltrame *	M	6 (3)	0	2 (0)
Mineo Bonetig	M	4 (8)	0	1 (0)
Matthew Borg	M	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Alvin Ceccoli	M	3 (2)	1	1 (0)
Claudio Cellini	M			

ERICSSON CUP

Form Guide

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Sydney United

v
West AdelaideSaturday,
March 9SYD. CROAT
SPT CENTRE

SYD UTD	Pos	GMS	Gls	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
John Perosh	G	19 (0)	0	0 (0)
Crews	G	3	0	(0)
Mark Babic	D	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
Paul Bilokapic	D	19 (0)	1	6 (0)
Andrew Crews	D	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Velimir Kupresak	D	22 (0)	0	3 (0)
Richard Plesa	D	10 (4)	0	3 (0)
Tony Popovic	D	18 (0)	4	2 (0)
Mark Rudan	D	7 (8)	1	3 (0)
Robert Enes	M	20 (0)	0	4 (0)
Aytek Genc	M	14 (0)	1	4 (1)
Chad Gibson	M	1 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Moric	M	13 (0)	0	2 (1)
Jim Patikas	M	9 (0)	1	1 (0)
Robert Trajkovski	M	6 (2)	0	1 (0)
Robert Markovac	M	7 (7)	3	2 (0)
Dominic Usaj	M	2 (5)	0	0 (0)
James Aschner	S	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Sean Babic	S	6 (10)	4	4 (0)
Manis Lamond	S	4 (9)	3	1 (0)
Ante Milicic	S	22 (0)	5	2 (0)
David Zdrilic	S	21 (1)	5	(0)

Head to Head: West Ad 6-2-4, goals (12-7)
Syd Utd at home: 1-1-4, Goals (2-7)

RECORD

SYDNEY UTD

Record Score: 2-0 (H)
1995/96
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-1-1

WEST AD

Record Score: 3-0 (H) &
(A) 1993/94
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 1-0-4

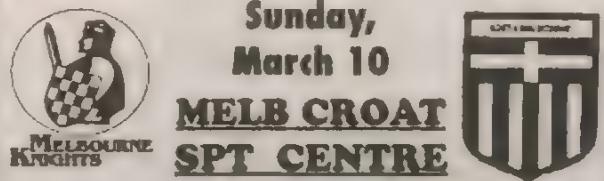
WEST AD	Pos	GMS	Gls	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Peter Blazincic	G	22 (0)	0	1 (0)
George Haniotis	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Robbie Hooker	D	20 (0)	3	2 (0)
Rechat Mezensof	D	0 (4)	0	0 (0)
Con Kokkinoplitis	D	20 (0)	0	3 (0)
Frank Tibaldi	D	19 (0)	0	4 (1)
Robbie Slager	D	20 (0)	2	4 (0)
Richie Alagichu	M	20 (1)	0	2 (0)
Ross Aloisi	M	20 (0)	2	7 (0)
Ayton Andrioli	M	5 (5)	0	2 (0)
Jim Keramidas	M	4 (3)	0	0 (0)
Pablo Cardozo	M	18 (2)	6	4 (0)
Athanasios Lekkas	M	2 (3)	0	1 (0)
Scott Morrison	M	1 (1)	0	(0)
Branko Milosevic *	M	13 (2)	0	2 (0)
Hamilton Thorpe	M	8 (4)	0	1 (0)
Jim Tsekiris	S	21 (1)	10	3 (0)
Jose Iriarte	S	9 (8)	0	3 (0)
C Ndongo-Keller	S	3 (2)	4	0 (0)
Nathan Day	U	13 (5)	4	5 (0)

* Branko Milosevic Stats include 2 full and 2 substitute appearances for UTS Olympic

ABSW TIPS

(52) Alistair Russell: Syd Utd
(49) John Economos: Syd Utd
(64) Greg Blake: Wests
(56) Con Stavros: Syd Utd
(44) Bob Brooks: Syd Utd

Melbourne Knights

v
South MelbourneSunday,
March 10MELB CROAT
SPT CENTRE

KNIGHTS

KNIGHTS	Pos	GMS	Gls	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Frank Juric	G	21 (0)	0	1 (0)
Vinko Buljubasic	D	19 (0)	1	4 (0)
Zoran Markovski	D	7 (3)	0	2 (0)
David Cervinski	D	19 (0)	1	5 (0)
Fausto De Amicis	D	19 (0)	0	2 (0)
B Bacak	D	0 (1)	0	0 (0)
Damien Grganovic	D	2 (1)	0	0 (0)
Ante Kovacevic	D	20 (0)	0	2 (0)
Andrew Marth	D	19 (0)	4	4 (1)
Lubo Lapsansky	M	20 (0)	2	5 (0)
Idriz Petia	M	0 (2)	0	0 (0)
Mark Silic	M	15 (0)	0	2 (0)
Josip Simunic	M	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Danny Tiatto	M	10 (11)	0	4 (0)
Damian Vojtek	M	5 (6)	1	0 (0)
Joe Bacak *	S	8 (7)	1	1 (0)
Ice Kutlesovski	S	3 (8)	2	0 (0)
John Markovski	S	10 (1)	1	4 (0)
Ollie Pondeljak	S	4 (3)	0	0 (0)
Joe Spiteri	S	18 (0)	5	6 (0)
Tom Pondeljak	U	9 (3)	4	0 (0)
Dragi Nastevski	U	3 (2)	0	1 (0)

* Bacak's stats include 5 full and 6 substitute appearances, 1 goal + 1 yellow card for Olympic.

Head to Head: Knights 13-8-6, Goals (35-27)

Knights at home: 4-2-7, Goals (13-18)

RECORD

MELB KNIGHTS

Record Score: 4-0 (A)
1989
LAST 5 MATCHES
At home: 3-1-1

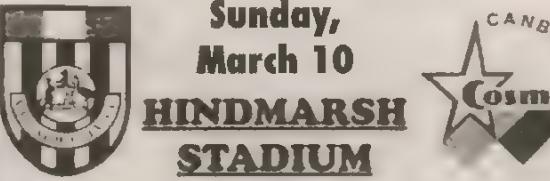
SOUTHS

Record Score: 3-0
(H) 1984 & (A) 90/91
LAST 5 MATCHES
Away: 0-0-5

SOUTHS	Pos	GMS	Gls	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Dean Anastasiadis	G	15 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Liliakis	G	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Michael Petkovic	G	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
Con Anthopoulos	D	13 (2)	0	3 (0)
Alan Davidson	D	7 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Duric	D	3 (2)	0	3 (0)
Steve Mangos	D	4 (3)	1	0 (0)
Kevin Muscat	D	2 (0)	0	0 (0)
Nick Orlic	D	15 (4)	1	2 (0)
Jean Paul Knezevic	D	4 (0)	0	0 (0)
Alex Kuzmanovic	D	18 (0)	0	4 (1)
Nick Papadopoulos	D	3 (0)	0	0 (0)
Mike Valkanis	D	10 (1)	0	5 (0)
Paul Trimboli	M	18 (1)	7	1 (0)
Tansel Baser	M	8 (4)	1	1 (0)
Con Blatsis	M	10 (0)	1	4 (1)
Bill Damianos	M	13 (5)	2	1 (0)
Sasa Nikolic	M	5 (9)	0	2 (0)
Steve Panopoulos	M	15 (2)	4	2 (0)
Mike Petersen	M	20 (0)	0	5 (0)
Daniel Allsopp	S	7 (1)	1	0 (0)
Vaughan Coveny	S	18 (0)	4	1 (1)
Michael Curcija	S	0 (3)	0	0 (0)
Ivan Kelic	S	14 (2)	7	1 (0)
Craig Lewis	S	3 (13)	1	4 (0)
Agim Sherifovski	S	12 (2)	1	2 (1)

* Orlic's stats include 12 full, 4 substitute appearances and 1 y c for UTS Olympic

Adelaide City

v
Canberra CosmosSunday,
March 10HINDMARSH
STADIUM

AD CITY

RECORD

AD CITY	Pos	GMS	Gls	YC
	(1) RES	(1) RC		
Jason Petkovic	G	21 (0)	0	0 (0)
Milan Ivanovic	D	20 (0)	0	3 (0)
Sasha Nedeljkovic	D	8 (3)	0	4 (1)
Alex Tobin	D	21 (0)	2	2 (0)
Brad Armour	D	19 (0)	1	6 (0)
Joel Marino	D	1 (1)	0	1 (0)
Mark Yates	D	17 (2)	0	3 (0)
Mark Brazzale *	M	5 (2)	0	0 (0)
Angelo Costanzo	M	5 (6)	0	0 (0)
Craig Foster	M	7 (0)	2	0 (0)
John Gibson	M	21 (0)	1	3 (0)
Goran Lozanovski	M	20 (0)	0	4 (0)
Dino Mennillo	M	7 (10)	1	2 (0)
Jamie Perin	M	13 (1)	0	3 (1)
Brad Hassell	S	19 (1)	8	0 (0)
Damian Mori	S	21 (

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

Leichhardt maintain their challenge

Three goals in seven minutes and a hat-trick from striker Stuart Cleary kept Leichhardt Tigers in the top three of the NSW Super League after a 3-2 away win over Central Coast on Sunday.

A scoreless deadlock was ended by Cleary four minutes before half time to give Leichhardt a 1-0 lead.

Coast's Darren Northam levelled the score two minutes after the start of the second half only to have Cleary snatch his second goal one minute later.

The striker then posted his third 12 minutes from time after Andrew Clark had once again pulled the Coasties level.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles also moved into a share of the points at the top of the table after a hard fought 2-1 win over Macarthur Rams at Lynwood Park.

The win lifted Bonnyrigg into second place behind Bankstown on goal difference and reaffirmed their potential as a finalist in this year's competition.

Bonnyrigg went ahead in stoppage time of the first half when Roman Nikolic finished off a neat movement consisting of a string of five passes with Mark Hoenselaars.

White Eagles should have gone further ahead straight after the break except for some inspired goalkeeping from David Hayes who kept his team in the game.

However, Bonnyrigg did increase their lead in the 54th minute when Milan Gajic pounced on a bad clearance by the Rams defence and finished off a great run with an unstoppable drive from the edge of the penalty area.

Macarthur retaliated with pressure on the Bonnyrigg defence and were rewarded in the 72nd minute when Sasha Stojcevski put a deep cross to the far post which Scott McArdle controlled and then smashed into the net.

It was the first goal this season for Macarthur in four matches and the team now occupies the bottom of the table.



Stuart Cleary: Hat-trick hero for Leichhardt Tigers.

ROUND 4

SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE

Blacktown City	2	Bankstown City Lions	1
Central Coast	2	Leichhardt Tigers	3
(D Northam 47m)		(S Cleary 41m, 48m, 78m)	
(A Clark 66m)			
Parramatta Eagles	1	Adamstown R'buds	0
(M Reverley 8m)			
Canterbury Berries	5	St George Saints	2
(K Tsousidis 20m, 35m)		(S Karavatakos 28m)	
(S Solidakis 40m)		(C McAusland 33m)	
(L Dounis 84m)			
(R Jerkovic 86m)			
Illawarra Lions	0	Warringah Dolphins	0
Macarthur Rams	1	Bonnyrigg WE	2
(S McArdle 72m)		(R Nikolic 45m)	
		(M Gajic 55m)	
Rockdale City Suns	0	Sutherland Sharks	1
		(G Bard 60m)	

UNDER 21

Blacktown City	5	Bankstown City Lions	1
Central Coast	1	Leichhardt Tigers	2
Parramatta Eagles	4	Adamstown R'buds	0
Canterbury Berries	5	St George Saints	2
Illawarra Lions	1	Warringah Dolphins	7
Macarthur Rams	0	Bonnyrigg WE	1
Rockdale City Suns	0	Sutherland Sharks	8

SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	APT
Parramatta Eagles	4	3	0	0	1	7	1 9
Bankstown City Lions	4	3	0	0	1	8	3 9
Bonnyrigg WE	4	3	0	0	1	10	6 9
Leichhardt Tigers	4	3	0	0	1	7	7 9
Warringah Dolphins	4	2	0	2	0	6	1 8
Sutherland Sharks	4	2	0	2	0	4	2 8
Adamstown R'buds	4	2	0	1	1	8	5 7
Blacktown City	4	2	0	1	1	8	5 7
Canterbury Berries	4	1	0	1	2	9	12 4
Central Coast	4	0	0	2	2	6	8 1
Illawarra Lions	4	0	0	2	2	4	9 2
St George Saints	4	0	0	2	2	3	8 2
Rockdale City Suns	4	0	0	1	3	4	12 1
Macarthur Rams	4	0	0	0	4	1	6 0

UNDER 21

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	APT
Sutherland Sharks	4	3	0	0	1	14	2 9
Warringah Dolphins	4	3	0	0	1	13	6 9
Macarthur Rams	4	3	0	0	1	9	2 9
Adamstown R'buds	4	3	0	0	1	10	11 9
Parramatta Eagles	4	2	0	2	0	10	3 8
Canterbury Berries	4	2	0	1	1	8	5 7
Bonnyrigg WE	4	2	0	1	1	7	7 7
Central Coast	4	2	0	0	2	5	7 6
Leichhardt Tigers	4	1	0	2	1	5	7 5
Blacktown City	4	1	0	1	2	7	6 4
St George Saints	4	1	0	0	3	8	10 3
Rockdale City Suns	4	1	0	0	3	6	15 3
Bankstown City Lions	4	0	0	1	3	2	11 1
Illawarra Lions	4	0	0	0	4	9	21 0

Blacktown get back on winning path

BY BOB BROOKS

At Gabbie Stadium on Saturday evening Blacktown

City Demons got back on the winning trail with a 2-1 victory over Super League leaders Bankstown City

Lions. The Demons had to hang on for the last 25 minutes with ten men after Damon Langan received his marching orders for a second yellow card offence.

In fact referee Alex Spiroski flashed the yellow eight times in what was a highly competitive but never spiteful match. His performance was inconsistent and at times raised the anger of the players.

The Lions mounted the first attack but a neat header from a Sasha Petrovski chip over the defence, was easily cleared by the Demons.

The Demons received two yellow cards in the 12th minute when the ball appeared to accidentally strike Jeff Doyle's arm. As Bankstown lined up the free kick, 20 metres out Langan was adjudged to have encroached.

At the second attempt John Crawley dived full length to stop an all-along-the-ground shot by Ozcan Celik.

Jay Anderson settled in quickly to the game and in the 19th he took on and beat his marker, turned nearly and fired in a powerful hit. Lions

goalkeeper Darren Viskovich could only parry the shot. No one was following up for the Demons and the chance went begging.

After a poor opening Antony Versi in the 28th minute, suddenly showed his vision. The Demons striker latched onto the ball 35 metres out. He hit a rocket which beat Viskovich's despairing dive to go in at the post.

Two minutes later Viskovich made amends with a brilliant push round the upright from a close range Jason Connolly header.

The pressure by Blacktown paid dividends in the 31st when a long throw from the right was nodded on for Anderson to poke it in, under the keeper's body for number two.

Blacktown could have had a third goal moments later as Connolly tried a shot from 30 metres but it was again kept out by Viskovich.

With five minutes to go in the half Blacktown lost their custodian. He came out to the edge of the box to try to take a dipping ball. Versi challenged him and the unfortunate goalie went down. He was later taken to hospital by ambulance with a

hip injury. This incident served to inspire the Lions and Petrovski got his head to a long ball. Crawley managed to tip it over the bar. Right on the whistle, Nikolce Joseski shot on the turn but he was well over the bar.

Six minutes into the second stanza Bankstown narrowed the difference. It was the ever-dangerous Joseski who succeeded with a low shot on the turn, which went in off Crawley's left hand post.

Saso Boskovski fired in a direct free kick from outside the penalty area but the ball curled harmlessly away.

The game was end to end action. Substitute Lions goalie, Anthony Avellino dived onto a Chris Minol cross to cut out a moment of danger.

A Martin Driene pile driver of a free kick was half cleared by Bankstown's defence. A lurking Versi, from outside the box thumped the ball back but Avellino managed to palm the ball for a corner.

The referee added on six minutes in the second half but despite a final effort from Celik, Blacktown ran out winners.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 5

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

St. George Saints v Parramatta Eagles
St. George Stadium, 6.00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Blacktown City
Serbian Centre, 6.00pm

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH

Adamstown Rosebud v Macarthur Rams
Adamstown Oval, 5.00pm

Illawarra Lions v Canterbury Berries
Brandon Park, 5.00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Central Coast
Jensen Park, 5.00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Rockdale City Suns
Lambert Park, 5.00pm

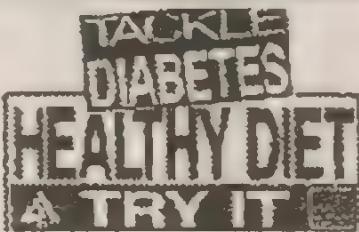
Warringah Dolphins v Sutherland Sharks
Cromer Park, 5.00pm

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TACKLE DIABETES



DIABETES AUSTRALIA

ROUND ONE

RESULTS

Oakleigh 7 (Hackman 5, Kalogeros, Natsioulas) Darebin United 0
Keilor Eagles 0 Melbourne Warriors 4 (Vlahos, Obranovic, Despotovski 2)
 Altona Magic 13 (Velkovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos 6, Becvinnovski 2, Madarovski, Emsovska, Radecki) Noble Park 0
Knox City 2 (Nelson, Sotirovski) Seaford United 0 Springvale White Eagles 6 (Z. Mihalovic 2, Stevancevic, Marankovic, Gacovski 2) Old Scotch Hawthorn 0
Bulleen Lions 6 (Giaccherini 2, Krajacic, Goutzioulis 2, Di Iorio) Sunbury United 2 (Maplesdon, Magnano) Essendon Brunswick 3 (Costa, Tribuzio 2) South Springvale 2 (Papageorgiou, Asimakidis) Sunshine Georgies 5 (Kanesoulis, Dragicevic, Field, Nilo, Spiteri) North Reservoir 0 Clifton Hill 0 Bentleigh Greens 2 (Sevastiadi, Constantiou) South Wantirna 2 (N. Gatzonis, B. Gatzonis) Warragul United 1 (Street) Moreland City 2 (Radoslovic, Hird) Kingston City 4 (Haritos, Gidas, Kyrylis 2) **Westvale 7 (Stubbins, Raynes 2, Papadopoulos 2, Lewis, Coustenis) Eaglehawk 0** Keysborough 3 (H. Dantas 3) Western Suburbs 0 **Melbourne City 3 (Patras, Araujo, Romero) Ballarat Red Devils 0** Northcote City 2 (Tsatas, Panaghis) South Caulfield 2 (Georgakopoulos, Romero) East Richmond 1 (Jurgovic) Fawkner 0 **Waverley City 1 (Feehan) Melton 2 (McNeilage, Fuller)** Albion 5 (Geri, Lestevski, Collins 2, McGeachey) Cranbourne 0 **Nunawading City 2 (Gameras, Sotirovski) Yarraville 2 (Garifallou, Sanches)** Box Hill 4 (D. Tartaglia, Chirico, Frezzini) Geelong Rangers 1 (Davidson) **Doncaster Rovers 3 (Athanasopoulos, Ristevski, Berdenis) Williamstown 0** North Geelong Thirds 1 (Herceg) Ringwood City 3 (Brimmer, Baker, Graper) **Corio 2 (Leban, Luczo) Werribee City 2 (Carraro, Bogoevski)** Springvale City 4 (Rosa 3, McMinnem) Langwarrin 1 (May) **Glenroy 0 Sunshine Heights 5 (Pshalay 2, Zelovski, Lakic, Baronleska)** Altona East 2 (Xydias, Vavatsikos) St Albans 1 (Markovac) **Lalor United 1 (Mitreviski) South Dandenong 2 (Wright 2)** Lalor 4 (Sangas 2, Jantreski 2) Frankston 3 (Watson, Botha 3) **Westgate 9 (Erdeviski, Georgievski 3, Gelic, Mulutin 2, Stojiljkovski 2) East Nunawading 0** South Werribee 0 Mornington 1 **Croydon City 12 (Van Egmond 3, Wright 4, Stenson 2, Morgan 3) Keon Park 1** Richmond 2 (Greenwood 2), Brunswick City 0 **Crofton 3 (Mustedanagic, Mrzic, Zedzepovic) Parkmore 0** Broadmeadows 1 (Kalayci) Pascoe Vale 1 (Maric) **Breaside United 5 (Zorovilis, Karakitonis 2, Zagodis 2) North Glenroy 0** Glen Eira 0 Banyule City 2 (Curcio, Fegan) **Frankston Pines 0 Thomastown Zebras 2 (Zinni, Cuculevski)** Moorabbin City 4 (Hoodless, McGurie, Nelson, Cacciotti) **Sandringham City 2 (Sutherland, West)** Port Melbourne 8 (Duric 4, Komilonis, Strapelias 2, Bell) Springvale Condors 0 **Regent Bulla 2 (Murdocka, Tisocco) Mitcham United 2 (Catalano, Tsantigianis)** Green Gully 5 (Babic 3, Scoble, Ketsakidis) Geelong 0 **Bell Park 4 (Mazza Carr 2, Manganelli) Sunshine Park 0** North Geelong 1 (Medved) Monbulk 2 (Rinnovasi 2) Mooroolbark 5 (Humble, Rogers, Carroll, Guardiani, Milne) Berwick City 0 Endeavour Hills 1 Diamond Valley 2 (game abandoned in 83rd minute due to crowd disturbance)

NUNAWADING C:2 YARRAVILLE 2

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL Nunawading and Yarraville shared the points in their first game of the 1996 Dockerty Cup at Wembley Park on Friday night.

Fourth Division Yarraville had the best of the chances but had to come from behind twice to save a point. Striker Jim Babatzanis was the villain in the first half missing three good opportunities, whilst James Adam hit a post for Nunawading.

Nunawading were ahead after an hour from a smart strike from outside the box by Slavko Sotirovski.

Yarraville continued to miss chances but were level on 72 minutes through Tony Garifallou.

Four minutes from time Tom Gamaras gave what Nunawading thought was the winner but within 30 seconds substitute Paolo Sanches grabbed the equaliser for Yarraville.

NUNAWADING: Busija, Calafiore (Vekic), Thompson, Kerezovic, Paternakis, Dalle-Nogare (Barker), Adam, Gamaras, Haitidis, Bown, Sotirovski. YARRAVILLE: Akratidis, Vakrinos, Damianos, Hatzopoulos, Orfanos (Nickas), Samaras, Garifallou, Karapanagiotidis (Sanches), Kozbanis, Babatzanis, Timotheou. REFEREE: N. Zachariadis.

BOX HILL 4 GEELONG RANGERS 1

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL Premier League side Box Hill made hard work of their game with Provisional League team Geelong Rangers despite the 4-1 scoreline.

Casual finishing and a heroic goalkeeping performance by Rangers' Gary Walker kept the score down below what was expected by the home crowd.

Defender Dean Tartaglia scored twice from two bullet like free kicks that were simply too good for Walker.

Frank Chirico and Gary Frezzini scored the other two goals for Inter.

Rangers' did get a consolation goal when Scott

TABLE

PREMIER LEAGUE - FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
HEIDELBERG UTD	6	6	0	0	23	3	18
BUNS. GEORGIES	6	6	0	0	13	2	18
ALTONA MAGIC	6	5	0	1	11	6	15
BENT. GREENS	6	4	0	2	9	6	12
THOMAST. ZEBRAS	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
NT. GEE. WARRIORS	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
BULLEEN LIONS	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
GR. GULLY CAV.	6	1	3	2	9	11	6
SPR CITY VALES	6	2	0	4	10	15	6
ST ALB. SAINTS	6	1	1	4	6	9	4
BOX HILL INTER	6	1	1	4	5	12	4
PT MELB. SHARKS	6	0	3	3	7	14	3
FAWKNER BLUES	6	0	2	4	6	12	2
ALBION REDSOX	6	0	1	5	1	13	1

Davison blasted Mark Linney's cross into the bottom corner.

BOX HILL: Marateo (Cochrane), Pansino, D. Tartaglia, Guglielmi, Castro, A. Inglese, Guscic, Gacovski (Marcen), Chirico, Frezzini, Petrakos (M. Inglese).

RANGERS: Walker, Robins, Carmichael, Coutts, Peacock, Opperman, Brough, Munro, Reed (Trebilcock), Linney, Davison.

REFEREE: C. Naumcevski.

GREEN GULLY 5 GEELONG 0

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG A brilliant hat-trick by Vlad Babic and a lack of discipline from the Geelong side, enabled the Green Gully Cavaliers to run out comprehensive 5-0 winners on Sunday.

Babic opened his account after a through ball to blast past Geelong keeper Nick Rendevski, who also saved his team from an even bigger hiding.

Chris Ketsakidis, scored after 28 minutes, converting from the penalty spot to give the Cavaliers a comfortable 2-0 lead at the break.

Peter Stojcevski set-up Gully's third goal just 30 seconds after coming on, his shot from mid-range being met on the line by Darren Scoble.

In the 70th minute Babic headed home a cross for his second goal, and he then rounded out the scoring three minutes later with an easy conversion of his own penalty.

For Langwarrin, Richie

May scored it's only goal in

CAVALIERS: Vella, Spiteri (Crodden), Ketsakidis, Douglas, Scoble, Chetcuti, Brown, Suric (Cimino), Markovski, Genovesi (Stojcevski).

GEELONG: Rendevski, McFarlane (T. Stefanovski), L. Stefanovski, S. Stojanovski, Dimovski (Subevski), Boedanovski, G. Stojanovski, McCloskey, Bolevski, Finovski, Nogiel.

REFEREE: M. Calfapietra.

SPRINGVALE 4 LANGWARRIN 0

BY SCOTT SPITS When it comes to goalscoring, Arma Rosa seems to have the knack. His hat-trick in the first-half of Springvale's Dockerty Cup match against Langwarrin set up a 4-1 victory for the Reds.

But Rosa was far from the only contributor to the win. Tony Lettieri and Jamie McMinimee were good through out while Robert Piemonte and Doug Nolan were great during Springvale's first-half.

Rosa completed his hat-trick with a simple goal in the 38th minute after two straight forward goals in the opening 10 minutes. It was a case of just how far at half-time when the Reds led 4-0 after McMinimee converted a penalty in the 40th minute.

For Langwarrin, Richie

May scored it's only goal in

the 81st minute but that did little to hide the difference in skill and class that separated the two sides.

VALES: Dastey, Letteri, Nolan (Calomino), De La Plaza, Razzi, Piemonte, McMinimee, McClenaghan (Gomez), D. Grella (Pattetas), Rep, Rosa.

LANGWARRIN: Taylor, Vannes, Honey, Tuckett, Hornblow, Fairclough, Robinson, Roberts, Neild, Prophy, Caloicoti.

WESTGATE 9 EAST N'WADING 0

BY JOHN RIGAS Westgate scored six goals in a 20 minute spell in the second-half to destroy Provisional club side East Nunawading at the Polish Community Centre.

Westgate's new signing Robert Georgievski scored a sensational hat-trick to prove to his new club that he is a worthy signing.

Goran Erdevski and Georgievski scored a goal each in the 4th and 6th minutes respectively. Georgievski added a third in the 23rd minute after a fine individual effort.

Georgievski completed his hat-trick in the 50th minute when he scored from a one on one situation with goalkeeper Michael Lazzarini.

The other goalscorers where Robert Stojiljkovski in

the 54th and 70th minutes, Mladen Mulutin 57th and 68th and Milorad Gelic who converted a penalty in the 62nd minute.

WESTGATE: Andoniadis, Erdevski, Pisak, Roksandic, Salapengidis, Gabrielson, Samaya (Bibilil), Varsos Georgievski (Stojiljkovski), Gelic, Mulutin.

EAST NUNAWADING: Lazzarini, Sella, Kyriacou, M. Kouyias, K. Kouyias, Zacari, Kromidas (Coraitas), Di Rosa, Tsankas (Di Manno), D. Andrea, Troiani.

NTH GEELONG 1 MONBULK 2

BY JOHN DIDULICA The lowly Monbulk produced one of the biggest upsets in recent Dockerty Cup history when it beat former Premier League champions North Geelong warriors 2-1 at Elcho Park on Sunday.

The tenacious minnows produced a disciplined performance over the entire 90 minutes to close the highly fancied Warriors out of the game.

The signs that an upset was beckoning were ominous when in the second minute the powerful Brett Lavale unleashed from distance, forcing a corner. From the ensuing kick, livewire striker Marco Rinnovasi was first to react to a loose ball in the area and he put it in and Monbulk ahead.

The Warriors list of missed opportunities continued to grow and their continued lack of concentration saw that man Rinnovasi capitalise on some diabolical defending to put Monbulk further in front.

Even though the Warriors through Ivan Modved, who was one of the Geelong sides few genuine contributors, splendidly equalised to set the scene for a dramatic conclusion, the 10 men of Monbulk withstood the challenge with some uncompromising, often ugly, but always effective defence.

RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

0055 38887

SUNDAY MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ Premier League
◆ State League Div. 1
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 4&5
(Updated by 6.30pm.
each Sunday evening)

0055 38878

SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ Premier League
◆ State League
Divisions
1 to 3
(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)
(PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 0055 38878)

0055 38898

SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS

SERVICE

◆ State League
Division 4
◆ Provisional
League Divisions 1-3
(Updated by 6.30pm
each Saturday evening)

KNIGHTS

in rusting armour

BY GREG BLAKE

Even when they started to get something right the fast-faltering Melbourne Knights still got the rest all wrong.

In Round 21 at Canberra the reigning champs appeared to be finding their feet and had posted three precious goals to edge well clear of the home side.

It was the Knights' first three-goal total on an Ericsson Cup scoreboard since last year's preliminary final win over South Melbourne, when a certain Mark Viduka notched a match-winning triple to keep the championship drive alive.

That is where the similarities between this year and last year end.

Against Canberra the Knights did what they didn't do at all last year and coughed up a two-goal lead to split the points.

The reigning champs conceded three goals in only three of

their 28 games in the run to the title last year — and never, ever did they surrender a two goal buffer.

And what of the sputtering Knights offence, which was league best last year and is currently ranked 11th out of 12?

Those three somewhat wasted strikes against Canberra pushed the Knights' miserable total to 21 all-up for the season thus far, meaning it took the current team 20 matches to exceed the total scored by Mr Viduka alone in 1994/95.

The Knights have gone scoreless eight times this year — about the same number of games Viduka failed to post a score last year.

So while the offence finally got something happening against lowly Canberra — remembering that the Cosmos had conceded five to hapless Newcastle the week before — this time the Knights blew it at the other end.

Which is a fairly long-winded



**MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS**

way of saying that the Knights will have to improve significantly to have even a sniff of repeating last year's triumph this time around.

As new coach Ian Dobson has pointed out, this is a vastly different team to last year and injuries have taken their toll etc, etc.

However, the bare facts are that few sides go back-to-back in this league, with only three teams — Sydney City twice and Marconi once — ever having won consecutive Ericsson Cup championships.

Appalling slumps are irregular

but spectacular.

The most dramatic tail-spin in league history was performed by Apia Leichhardt in 1988, just one year after the then Rale Rasic-coached team had blitzed to the league's last-ever first past the post championship.

In the follow-up campaign Apia sunk to a dismal 11th, the worst slump by an Ericsson Cup champion.

As far as getting the chance to at least play-off for a shot at the title the following historical date falls into the good news/bad news department as far as the Knights are concerned.

The good news is that 14 of the past 18 championship-winning teams in this league have gone on to end the follow-up campaign inside the top six in league standings.

The bad news is that unless the Knights start hitting the goal trail they can kiss the championship trophy goodbye as of now.

The Knights are currently scoring at the rate of a single goal per game.

Only once in the previous 19 years of league competition has any team edged into the top six in the league at a one-per-game or less average.

That is to say, only one of the 132 teams to finish sixth or better on an Ericsson Cup ladder in any season in league history has managed to do so fuelled by a strike force incapable of better than one goal per game.

For the record, that odd team out — in 1991/92 — was Wollongong City, coached by a certain David Ratcliffe.

They snuck into fifth spot after scoring just 24 goals in 26 games during the regular season, but not surprisingly the miserly Wolves were bundled out of the finals at the first hurdle.

And unless something clicks for the Knights soon they face a similar fate — if they even get that far.

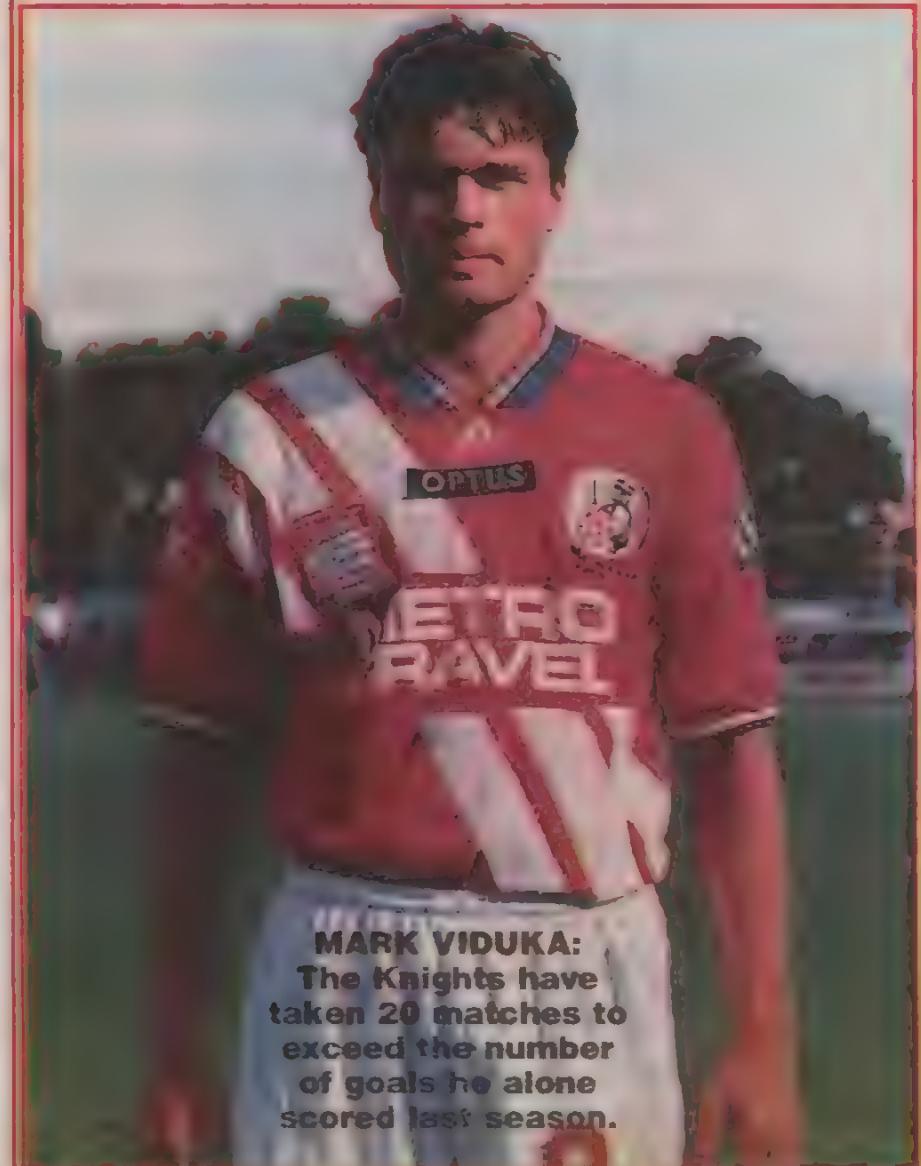
HOLLOW KNIGHTS have fallen

SEASON	CHAMPS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	WHERE THEY FINISHED
1978	Sydney City	2nd*
1979	West Adelaide	7th*
1980	Marconi Fairfield	4th*
1981	Sydney City	1st*
1982	Sydney City	1st*
1983	Sydney City	2nd*
1984	St George	10th
1985	South Melbourne	equal 5th**
1986	Melbourne Zebras	equal 5th**
1987	Adelaide City	10th*
1988	Apia Leichhardt	11th
1989	Marconi Fairfield	1st
1989/90	Marconi Fairfield	2nd
1990/91	UTS Olympic	6th
1991/92	South Melbourne	3rd
1992/93	Adelaide City	2nd
1993/94	Marconi Fairfield	4th
1994/95	Adelaide City	2nd
1995/96	Melbourne Knights	?? (currently 6th)

* Denotes title decided by first past the post (i.e. no finals deciders)

** Denotes seasons when league was split into two divisions of 12 teams each. In '84 Saints finished 10th in Northern Division and missed the finals. For the next two seasons the reigning champions made their divisional finals but were knocked out at the preliminary final stage both times, thus finishing third in the Southern Division but ranked equal 5th overall. Confusing, isn't it?

All statistical references include all Ericsson Cup league games up to and including all matches played on February 25, 1996.



MARK VIDUKA:
The Knights have taken 20 matches to exceed the number of goals he alone scored last season.

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BANK ON THE FAIRFIELD FOR TITLE

BY GREG BLAKE

It's a three-horse race for the 1995/96 Ericsson Cup national title.

Despite a full third of the season remaining before the finals, the teams with the inside running are the current top three of Marconi Fairfield, UTS Olympic and the Brisbane Strikers — forget the rest.

Punters look for consistency and current form as the most accurate guides to tipping winners and using that as our basis the tearaway trio come out tops by far.

Going into last weekend's 22nd round of games — the results of which were not available at the time of writing — there is little to split the top three and plenty to suggest that they are ahead of the rest of the field.

With the double chance obviously crucial and available only the top two finishers, last weekend's Brisbane v Olympic game might have been a season decider, with a UTS win putting the Strikers in diffi-

cult catch-up territory.

Brisbane might yet pay for its horror start to the year, for its form since has been the equal of both the Sydney giants.

Whilst the current top three have virtually dominated the past four months of competition as the form of others fluctuated wildly, Olympic and Marconi had the advantage of flying starts in the opening month of October.

It may be recalled that the Strikers lost four of their first five games, all to teams now currently in the top six.

Prior to last weekend Brisbane's last defeat — the club's sixth of the season — was back on December 6, when the Strikers unluckily fell to a last-minute (what else!) Kris Trajanovski goal against UTS in Sydney for a 1-0 defeat.

Since then the Brisbane side has reversed virtually every one of its five losses in October/November, including a rare win at Marconi, a 3-1 victory over West Adelaide, a 4-0



thumping of Sydney United and that now famous 7-1 triumph over Adelaide City.

A victory last weekend over Olympic would have completed the revival since the early humiliations suffered by Bruce Stowell's team.

From the start of November to the end of February the records of the top trio are virtually identical.

In that period Brisbane took 34 points (29 goals for/16 against), UTS won 34 points (35/15) and Marconi 33 points (32/18).

The next best was Sydney United, some two games behind the top sides after boomerang in February.

In the period between Brisbane's last loss and last

weekend UTS had taken 23 points, with Marconi and Brisbane on 22.

Again, United was best of the rest, this time seven points behind the elite.

Olympic has beaten 10 of the other 11 teams in the league at least once to date, with Brisbane and Marconi claiming nine of 11 possible scalps each.

Curiously, the teams both Marconi and Brisbane haven't overcome this season to date are identical, the Melbourne Knights and... UTS Olympic.

In contrast, fourth-placed Sydney United has won only eight games overall, with only three of those wins against teams in the top six.

If the next step is then electing a winner from the top three, the fact that UTS does boast that imposing record over both its main rivals this season suggests David Ratcliffe's team has the winning edge.

Indeed the one element of the equation that splits the trio is the respective head-to-head records against the rest of the top seven clubs in the running for the finals.

Whilst all three clubs still rank clearly ahead of the rest of the field in this area as well, Olympic ranks well ahead of its rivals, with Marconi and Brisbane each spaced behind in second and third best against the other top clubs.

All three are exceptionally difficult to toss at home, having lost just two of total of 33 games between them on home turf — when Marconi won at Brisbane and when the Strikers reversed that result in Sydney.

On the basis of that decided home advantage the value bet for the minor premiership is UTS

Olympic.

In the final third of the season Olympic gets virtually all its tough games at Leichhardt Oval, hosting the likes of Brisbane, Marconi, the Knights, Sydney United and Adelaide City at home base.

Marconi and Brisbane both only get two of the other top seven at home.

The Strikers must travel to Adelaide twice, Sydney twice and Melbourne once to close out the season.

Marconi has it slightly easier, with single road trips to Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne, whilst the other two away games still within the Sydney area.

The Fairfielders should edge into second place, ensuring a Sydney grand final and a possible all-Sydney affair for the first time since 1989/90.

David Ratcliffe won't like to hear it, but his team is currently lurching towards red-hot favouritism for this year's title — and make you get a little each way on Marconi and Brisbane in this three horse race.

MONTH-BY-MONTH ERICSSON CUP FORM GUIDE

OCTOBER

TEAM	PLD	PTS
Falcons	5	10
Marconi	5	10
Knights	5	10
Olympic	5	10
Souths	5	7
Zebras	5	6
Sharks	5	6
Syd. Utd	4	5
Breakers	5	5
Strikers	4	3
Wolves	4	3
Cosmos	4	2

NOVEMBER

TEAM	PLD	PTS
Syd Utd	5	10
Strikers	5	9
Olympic	4	8
Zebras	4	7
Sharks	4	7
Knights	4	7
Marconi	4	7
Falcons	4	6
Cosmos	5	5
Wolves	5	4
Breakers	4	3
Souths	4	0

DECEMBER

TEAM	PLD	PTS
Marconi	8	17
Strikers	8	17
Olympic	8	17
Syd. Utd	8	15
Souths	8	13
Cosmos	8	13
Sharks	8	12
Knights	8	11
Zebras	8	9
Falcons	8	5
Wolves	8	3
Breakers	8	2

FEBRUARY

TEAM	PLD	PTS
Marconi	4	9
Olympic	4	9
Strikers	4	8
Souths	4	7
Zebras	3	6
Sharks	4	6
Wolves	4	4
Falcons	3	3
Knights	3	2
Cosmos	4	2
Syd. Utd	4	2
Breakers	3	1

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**AUSTRALIA TO TAKE ON NZ & KOREA**

In this rebuilding phase of the Australia team development, the new squad's first hit-out on the international stage takes place later this month with a three-nation tournament in Auckland, New Zealand.

Joining traditional rivals Australia and New Zealand will be the Korean team. "I think Korea will be a very strong team," said coach Tom Sermanni.

"Their youth side which was recently here played typical Asian football — good skills, quick and technically good, but perhaps lacking the ability to really finish off teams."

Last year, New Zealand travelled to Australia for a two-match series, with the Aussies victors 4-2 and 2-0. But Sermanni will be treating the Kiwis with caution this time round.

"New Zealand will be a completely different story on their home soil. They are always very difficult to play. We are starting over, with a new squad. It will be a tough tour and very testing for the players."

The tournament is scheduled for March 23-30 with each team playing their opponents twice. The Australian team will be announced next week.

Aussies narrow win over Cosmos

Last Wednesday night at the Sydney Football Stadium, an Australian Select edged out Sydney Cosmos, breaking the deadlock with a late goal to win 3-2 over their spirited opponents.

Tom Sermanni was forced to call in extra recruits with many players out injured or unavailable for the match.

It was not until the 35th minute that the Aussies opened the scoring. Sharon Black floated in a free-kick from the left into the box where Lizzy Claydon timed her jump to plant her headed shot into the top corner of the net.

Six minutes later, against the run of play, Sydney Cosmos found an equaliser. A stray shot flew across the front of goal finding Prouten all alone at the back post for a simple tap in.

Following an even start after the break, it was the Aussies who again took the lead in the 57th minute. A switching pass found substitute Sarah Fitzgerald in sight of goal on the right, her shot beating keeper Nichols inside the near post for a scoreline of 2-1.

Just six minutes later Murray brought Cosmos



Australian Select pictured at the Sydney Football Stadium before the game against Sydney Cosmos.

back on level terms, converting a corner with a lethal low shot.

The Select side then regained territorial advantage but still couldn't produce the winner. Then five minutes before the final whistle, the ball fell within reach of Aussie substitute Cindy Doyle in front of goal. She

stretched to strike the target for a final result of 3-2.

For the Australian Select, Katrina Boyd and Black created problems up front, with Joanne Peters directing play in midfield. Cosmos were well served in defence by Sargent, with Nichols making several good saves.

Australian Select: Belinda Barter, Sarah Cooper, Kristyn Swaffer, Bridgette Starr, Lizzy Claydon, Joanne Peters, Michelle Watson, Katrina Boyd, Sharon Black, Louise McMurtie, Jordie Blank, Lisa Price, Marlene Widders, Ourania Amvrazis, Ann-Maree Csuka.

Elizabeth Cotton.

Sydney Cosmos: Claire Nichols, Stephanie Kite, Julie Murray, Bria Sargent, Amy Tredinnick, Melissa Denning, Michelle Prouten, Jordie Blank, Lisa Price, Marlene Widders, Ourania Amvrazis, Ann-Maree Csuka.

1999 WORLD CUP PROBABLY IN USA

FIFA announced last week that the United States was the only country to submit a bid to host the 1999 women's World Cup.

Australia and Chile had both expressed interest in staging the quadrennial event but the February 29 deadline passed without either nation submitting a formal proposal.

With no other candidates the US, which hosted the men's World Cup in 1994, will almost certainly be awarded the third women's world championships.

FIFA will formally announce the host at an executive committee meeting in Zurich on May 31. While the United States men's soccer program struggles to establish itself internationally, the American women are already a power having won the inaugural championship in 1991 in China.

Sweden hosted the championships in 1995 with Norway beating Germany in the final. The United States was third.

KEEPING AT THE AIS

The best goalkeepers in the country will this week be put through their paces by Assistant coach and former Socceroo goalkeeper Jeff Olver. In camp at the AIS Canberra from March 7-10, they will probably also be working with AIS Goalkeeper coach Paul Jones for what will certainly be an intense four days. Seven goalies will be in Canberra, with NSW's Belinda Barter unavailable due to work commitments.

TANYA COWAN..... QLD
BELINDA KITCHING..... QLD
CAROLYN LYNCH..... TAS
AMANDA PATERSON..... NSW
LEANNE TRIMBOLI..... SA
TORY TURNER..... ACT
TRACEY WHEELER..... WA

Drawn game in Brisbane

The much awaited clash between the Australia OAP Squad and Queensland last Sunday week at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium was a great spectacle and tightly fought, ending in a 1-1 draw.

With the six local OAP members released to play for the Maroons, Queensland fielded a formidable side. The OAP side however ended up short of players with several unavailable due to injury or not at the camp due to work commitments.

Midway through the first half, it was OAP member Kim Revell who gave Queensland the lead. With just Aussie goalkeeper Tracey Wheeler to beat, Revell's shot was only partly saved and spun into the net.

The OAP's then caught the home side unawares, equalising immediately after the break, with Lisa Casagrande sending over a sweet cross for Katrina Boyd to pump into the net.

Australia had the better of the chances to then break the deadlock, but were unable to convert. Queensland had a perfect opportunity to take the honours in the final minutes but impressive youngster Alicia Ferguson hit wide of the target.

The 5000-strong crowd present by the final stages of the match made for a great atmosphere. They were noticeably appreciative of what they witnessed.

Australia OAP: Tracey Wheeler, Sarah Cooper, Joanne Powell, Kristyn Swaffer, Sacha Wainwright, Cindy Doyle, Shelley Youman, Joanne Peters, Sharon Black, Lisa Casagrande, Katrina Boyd.

Subs — Sarah Fitzgerald, Brooke Short, Penny Tanner.

Queensland: Belinda Kitching, Sonia Gegenhuber, Louise McMurtie, Vanessa Clayton, Amber Overton, Tammie Thornton, Sarah Garven, Tanya Corbett, Lisa Dunne, Corinne Currey, Kim Revell.

Subs — Tanya Cowan, April Mann, Alicia Ferguson, Kelly Polakow.

CLARIFICATION

Tony Walmsley could (as opposed to 'would') be out of a job as NSW ITC coach after December this year. This change of emphasis, in last week's ABSW, was due to a misprint.

PLAYER FACTS

**Katrina Boyd
OAP Squad, NSW**

Nickname

Boydie

Date of Birth

December 12, 1971

Birthplace

Sydney

Height

170cm

Naturally left or right footed

Right

Position

Forward

Club

NSW ITC

No. of brothers/sisters

1 brother, 1 sister

When/why started soccer

Age 10 — For fun with a few friends

Previous clubs

Cronulla RSL, Campbelltown Police

Awards

Youth, Liverpool, North Ryde,

Rep Honours

North Rocks, Hellas, Cronulla

NSW Schools Blue

NSW Schools Blue

NSW and Aust Schoolgirls '88, '89

NSW U/15 '86;

NSW Open '90, '91, '92, '95;

Aust Squad '90, '91, '92, '95

Australia v Malmo 1991

Haven't had one yet

Selection in OAP Squad

Carol Vinson, Maradona

Car I drive

Toyota Rav 4

Favourite food

Don't have favourite — love to eat everything

Favourite drink

Gatorade

Favourite music

Dance

Favourite TV

Melrose Place

Favourite actor

Jodie Foster

Hobbies

Collecting stamps

First thing I'd buy if

House

won lottery

St George Dragon

Most famous person I've met

Maradona

Person I'd most like to meet

Carol Vinson, Maradona

Soccer ambitions

1999 World Cup, 2000 Sydney Olympics

Pre-match meal

Banana

Pre-match superstitions

Nil

Best aspect of my game

Skill on the ball

Best goal scored

Against ACT ITC in Wollongong

Atlanta Olympics prediction

Norway

SOCCER NEW SOUTH WALES**Expressions of interest are sought for the following positions...****NSW WOMENS STATE TEAM YOUTH & SENIOR COACH, MANAGER AND PHYSIOTHERAPIST**

It is expected that the suitable persons would be available to train several nights a week at Glenwood, to attend 2 or 3 weekend camps and be available to travel to Perth (Youth team) and Darwin (Senior team) in September

Written applications to be addressed to:

General Manager
Soccer NSW
PO Box 6024
Blacktown Business Centre, NSW 2148

CLARIFICATION

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HISTORIC GAME OF SOCCER IN NSW

BY BOB BROOKS

Joadja Creek. The name will ring a bell with our regular readers but be a mystery to others.

The ghost town of Joadja Creek will come back to life, for a fleeting moment in time, in March this year. In fact a game of soccer will take place on March 24. This will be the first known game there for 100 years.

Joadja Creek is in a deep valley, 32 kms west of Mittagong in the Southern Highlands of NSW. A journey of about one and a half hours from Sydney by car has the visitors in Mittagong.

The area is now private property but the old oil shale mining town will be open on Saturday March 23 with the game the next day. Opening times are 9am to 4pm with a \$5 entry fee for adults and children free. Proceeds will go to local charities and service clubs who will provide their time during the weekend.

Two teams will be selected who will play for the Atkinson Price Challenge Cup which dates from 1887. A Scotsman from Fife in Scotland, one Ziggy unusually named Spilarewicz, will be wearing the colours of Joadja Creek. Ziggy played for Raith Rovers and was selected in the Scotland Under 23 team which played against France. Ziggy came to Australia to play for the Sydney Hakoah club and was a success.



Training sessions will be held at 11.30am and 12.30pm on Sunday with the match from 1.30pm. The day will be a golden opportunity for photographs as all players will be kitted out in shirts, long trousers tucked into their socks, and Tam O'Shanter on their heads.

Joadja Creek was mined from the middle 1870s and staffed almost entirely by Scottish workers. At that time only the Scots had the skills to refine oil shale into kerosene.

The famous Granville club travelled to play Joadja Creek. Granville had been formed by workers at Clyde Engineering which made locomotives. The journey from west of Sydney to Joadja was broken down into legs.

From Sydney Central railway station to Mittagong was three and a half hours. Lunch was taken. Then it was onto a private railway in open wagons for the bone-shaking two hour trip before a steep descent to Joadja.

After that it was no surprise when the then giants of Sydney soccer were beaten by the locals to 2 goals to 0.

By 1900 the township was virtually devoid of miners as the reserves of oil shale had run out. It is believed that many of the miners moved to Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in the West Australian gold fields. Gold was discovered in the Eastern fields just before the start of the century.

For a unique experience and a large touch of nostalgia travel back in time to Joadja Creek and be part of history as the first game of soccer for one hundred years takes place on Sunday March 24, 1996.

Lalor & Preston shape up

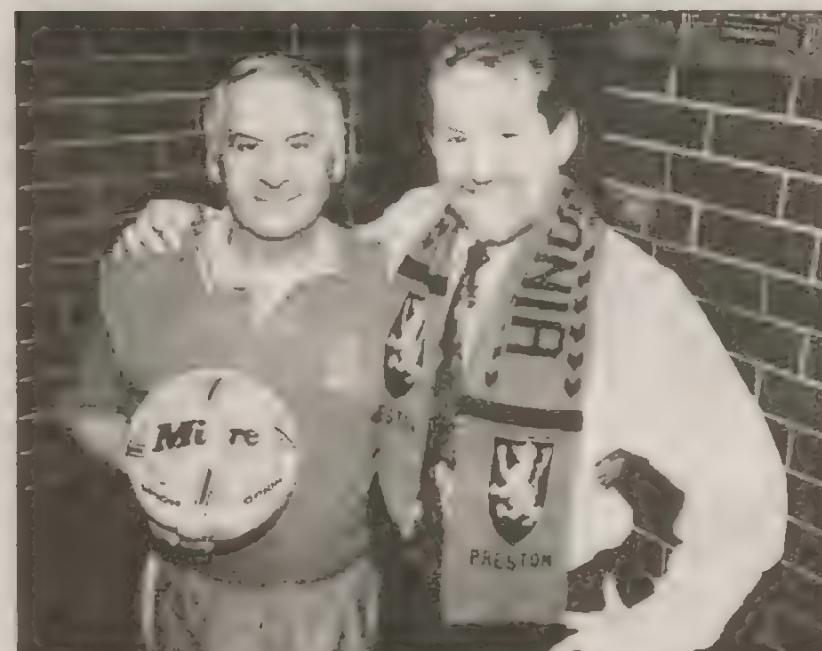
When Preston clashes with Lalor United in the Victoria State League this season, Melbourne's northwest region will be treated to its own version of Manchester United v Manchester City, AC Milan v Inter Milan or Glasgow Rangers v Glasgow Celtic.

Preston and Lalor United are geographic neighbours, both are supported by the Macedonian community and now they also share a common sponsor — the giant Goodyear Tyre company of nearby Thomastown.

"We are delighted to be associated with both clubs and we aim to support them in their bid to rise to the highest possible level of competition," Goodyear spokesman Bryan Mears said.

Preston and Lalor United are in direct competition for the first time because Preston was relegated from the Victorian Premier League to the State League First Division at the end of last season.

Yet Preston had won the



Preston coach Andon Donevski (left) welcomes Bryan Mears to the club.

Premier League championship the previous year.

For 12 years, the club was a member of Australia's peak competition, the national league — now known as the Ericsson Cup

— to which it aims to return.

To that end, it has appointed as its full-time coach Andon Donevski, who was national coach of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the past four years.

And Donevski revealed this week that two players from Macedonia would be joining Preston in the next few weeks. Striker Tony Naumovski is a former international for Macedonia he will be accompanied by

left flanker Mitko Stoikoski. Both are from the Macedonian club Pobeda Prilep.

Lalor are not intimidated by Preston's past history.

Lalor United president Bob Josevski said: "We are preparing for promotion to the Premier League, we have the players, the financial strength and the right coach — so Preston does not worry us."

"We were promoted from the State League's fourth division to the first division in successive seasons, and in every one of those seasons, Vasko Mitrevski was the coach. Under him, we can do it again."

Lalor's preparation for the State League season has included the recruitment of striker Dime Patanovski from the Ohrid club in Macedonia and former Bentleigh Greens midfielder Andrew Dimitriou who had been playing professionally in Cyprus.

Goodyear also sponsors the Thomastown Zebras in the Victorian Premier League.

THE REFEREE'S ROLE IN MORE ATTACKS

BY BOB BROOKS

A number of objectives for match officials including maximisation of playing time are in force across Australia. The Protection of Players, Encouragement of Attacking Play and Optimisation of the Presentation of Fixtures are the other areas.

Although these guidelines have been issued to referees and linesmen they have such an affect on the game we love and cherish that, everyone involved should know about them.

Association football is being directed towards a less physically combative style of play. If you like, a more skilful game with less body contact. For body read feet, legs, knees, arms, hands and of course the trunk which includes hips, backside, shoulders and chests.

A sliding tackle is permitted if the referee considers it is not dangerous. However if the tackler fails to make contact with the ball and trips his opponent, then the referee will award a direct free kick. The tackler will receive a caution i.e. a yellow card.

In some situations the slide tackler will be cautioned (yellow carded) if he misses the ball and doesn't come into contact with the opponent. This

will be because the referee decides that the tackle was a foul one. Remember the thrust of these changes is to encourage attacking play.

In order to encourage attacking play there is subtle change to the offside Law.

Two basic questions need to be asked to decide if a player is to be given off-side they are:

1. Is the player in the 'zone of play'?
2. Is the player 'actively' or 'passively' involved in the play?

If there is any doubt, then the benefit of that doubt should be given to the attacking team.

What is the 'zone of play'? Let us take an example. If an attacker shoots for goal and scores. The shot was from the left hand side of the penalty area and a team mate was in an 'offside' position on the right. Then the goal will stand because this second player was not in active play.

However in the same situation but the goalkeeper parries the shot or it hits an upright or crossbar and the second player fires in a shot. Then he is off-side and a 'goal' scored would be disallowed.

The second player is in active play and has gained an advantage by being in that position.

Remember a player is not offside if receiving the ball directly from a throw-in or corner kick.

Linesmen do not signal merely because a player is in an off-side position. However a referee can still over-rule a linesman.

The game has become more active, or faster, over recent seasons. Referees fitness levels have never needed to be as high as now.

Spectators want to see a

clean, exciting, fast moving spectacle. As such it is a more marketable product.

Referees have a major impact on a fixture, or game. They must ensure quick re-starts from free kicks, throw-ins, goal kicks, corner kicks.

If time is wasted at these situations then they must ensure that an appropriate amount of time is added on.

The referee has to constantly search for

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QUEENSLAND XXXX League



Sweet revenge for City

BY JASON KLUVER

A late strike by midfielder Damien Waugh allowed Brisbane City to take their revenge on last year's Champions Rochedale Rovers with a 2-1 win in a replay of the 1995 XXXX League grand final, at Spencer Park last Friday night.

In a fast and physical match, both sides tried to out-muscle one another, forcing referee Bob Eddy to issue five yellow cards and award some 40 free-kicks.

City attempted to gain the upper hand early in the game, with Shane Haddow, Ian Hutchison and Waugh sending a number of shots well over the head of Rochedale keeper Martin



Simpson.

It was Rochedale who had the first genuine chance of the match though, in the 15th minute, when new Rockhampton signing Roy Bobb presented Andy Lees with a quick throw in, the speedy striker flicking the ball onto his scoring partner Kieran Cooper, who sent his shot to the right of the goals.

City's only significant

chance of the first half came 10 minutes later when striker Fiore Bartilomo found space on the right before sending a short cross to Hutchison at the near post, who also shot wide of the target.

Rochedale dominated the remainder of the first stanza and it was cool work by busy City midfielder John Schiavo that denied the visitors the opening goal, after he cleared an Eddie Lees drive off the line in the 32nd minute.

Chances to Cooper and Andy Lees also went begging late in the half due to wayward shooting.

Two minutes after the break, Rochedale took a deserved 1-0 lead after Darren Hiller found Cooper in the penalty area with a pin-point free-kick,



the former National League striker knocking the ball down for Bobb to tap in from close range at the far post.

The second half, despite producing two more goals, was a very lacklustre affair from that point on, with only five genuine shots on goal for the remainder of the game.

City's equaliser came in the 59th minute with a well-worked goal to Bartilomo. Midfielder

Cameron Pearse found Schiavo on the right, who headed the ball on to Bartilomo, who in turn flicked on to Hutchison, his first time shot rebounding back for Bartilomo to slot into an open goal.

With just eight minutes of normal play remaining, the home side made it 2-1 when State player Waugh was left unmarked at the edge of the box and sent one of his customary left foot drives past an outstretched Simpson in goals.

Rochedale's final chance to salvage a draw came in the last minute of the match when replacement Sean Carey broke away down the right flank and sent over a looping cross that forced City keeper Daniel Duke to tip over the bar.

ROUND 1

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Pine Rivers United	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Beenleigh	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Brisbane City	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Brisbane Lions	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Nerang Soccer Club	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Wynnum District	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Coalstars	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Grange Thistle	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Rochedale Rovers	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Taringa Rovers	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
North Star	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Eastern Suburbs	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

RESULTS

Brisbane City	2	Rochedale Rovers	1
Beenleigh	2	North Star	0
Coalstars	1	Wynnum District	2
Pine Rivers United	4	Eastern Suburbs	1
Nerang Soccer Club	2	Grange Thistle	1
Brisbane Lions	2	Taringa Rovers	1

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
St. Albans	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Rocklea United	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Capalaba Soccer & Rec.	1	0	0	4	3	3	3
Inala City United	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Willowburn	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Ipswich St Helens Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olympic United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logan City Kings	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Acacia Ridge	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
The Gap	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Mount Gravatt	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Albany Creek Excelsior	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

RESULTS

Willowburn	2	The Gap	1
Mount Gravatt	2	Rocklea United	4
Olympic United	0	Ipswich St Helens U..	0
Capalaba S. & Rec.	4	Logan City Kings	3
Acacia Ridge	1	Inala City United	2
Albany Creek Excelsior	0	St Albans	5

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Redlands United	1	1	0	0	8	1	3
Slacks Creek	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
University of Queensland	1	0	0	3	1	3	3
Newmarket	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Mitchelton	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Darra United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Goodna & Districts	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Souths United	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Clairvaux Soccer C Inc.	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Annerley Rec.	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Latrobe Athletic	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Western Suburbs	1	0	0	1	1	8	0

RESULTS

Souths United	1	Mitchelton	2
Clairvaux Soccer C Inc.	1	Uni of Queensland	3
Latrobe Athletic	0	Slacks Creek	3
Goodna & Districts	1	Darra United	1
Annerley Recreation	0	Newmarket	2
Western Suburbs	1	Redlands United	8

DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayside United	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Southside Eagles	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Redcliffe City	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Samford	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
South Star	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brothers United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
North Pine United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Moggill United	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Browns Plains	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Greenbank	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Pine Hills	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Ipswich City	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

RESULTS

North Pine United	1	Brothers United	1
South Star	1	Greenbank	0
Pine Hills	1	Southside Eagles	3
Bayside United	3	Ipswich City	0
Redcliffe City	2	Moggill United	1
Browns Plains	0	Samford	1

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Friday, March 8

Grange Thistle	v	Pine Rivers

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ITALY's Serie A & B

TABLES

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	24	15	8	1	41	16	53
Fiorentina	24	13	7	4	40	22	46
Parma	24	11	10	3	34	20	43
Juventus	24	12	6	6	41	23	42
Lazio	24	11	6	7	45	27	39
Inter	24	10	8	6	31	18	38
Roma	24	9	8	7	30	23	35
Sampdoria	24	8	8	8	35	35	32
Vicenza	24	8	8	8	24	26	32
Udinese	24	7	7	9	26	31	31
Napoli	24	7	9	8	22	29	30
Cagliari	24	9	3	12	26	38	30
Atalanta	24	7	6	11	26	37	27
Piacenza	24	6	7	11	23	41	25
Torino	24	5	9	10	23	34	24
Padova	24	6	3	15	27	45	21
Cremonese	24	3	9	12	27	37	18
Bari	24	4	6	14	34	53	18

SERIE B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Verona	25	11	8	6	29	21	41
Cesena	25	10	9	6	33	23	39
Bologna	25	8	13	4	20	15	37
Perugia	25	9	9	7	31	27	36
Reggiana	25	9	9	7	24	22	36
Pescara	25	9	8	8	29	30	35
Venezia	25	8	10	7	22	25	34
Genoa	25	9	7	9	37	33	34
Salernitana	24	8	9	7	27	18	33
Ancona	25	10	3	12	34	33	33
Lucchese	25	7	12	6	26	28	33
Avellino	25	9	5	11	27	32	32
Palermo	25	6	14	5	19	24	32
F. Andria	25	7	10	8	30	27	31
Cosenza	25	6	13	6	27	28	31
Brescia	25	8	6	11	30	31	30
Reggina	25	7	9	9	23	33	30
Chievo V.	25	5	14	6	23	22	29
Foggia	24	6	8	10	17	26	26
Pistoiese	25	5	8	12	22	32	23

RESULTS

SERIE A

Atalanta	1	Cremonese	1
Cagliari	4	Bari	2
Fiorentina	2	Sampdoria	2
Lazio	0	Inter	1
Napoli	0	Piacenza	0
Torino	2	Udinese	0
Milan	4	Vicenza	0
Parma	1	Roma	1
Padova	0	Juventus	5

SERIE B

Brescia	2	Avellino	0
Cesena	0	Reggina	0
Cosenza	1	Palermo	1
F. Andria	1	Venezia	1
Foggia	1	Salernitana	3
Genoa	3	Chievo V.	1
Lucchese	0	Reggiana	2
Pescara	0	Bologna	0
Pistoiese	2	Perugia	1
Verona	3	Ancona	0

Milan overwhelm Vicenza and extend lead

Surprise Serie A results brought a payout of about \$A650,000 in Italy's Totocalcio Football Pools competition last weekend, despite the abandonment of one of the games when the crowd invaded the pitch.

Prolific goalscorer George Weah demonstrated his creative ability last Saturday, setting up three goals in just 15 minutes as the league leader AC Milan thrashed Vicenza 4-0.

Weah — on target in his last four matches — laid on the cross from which Dejan Savicevic put Milan ahead in the 46th minute.

Five minutes later, the Liberian brushed aside two challenges before laying on a simple tap-in for Marco Simone. The same player scored his second from the penalty spot in the 58th minute after a foul on the irrepressible Weah.

Paolo Di Canio's solo goal completed the rout in the 87th minute.

Fiorentina's 2-2 draw with Sampdoria did nothing to suggest a possible challenge to the Milanese team's supremacy.

A 2-0 win against tricky Udinese on Sunday seemed to say that Torino, one of the Italian First Division's perennial denizens, may be pulling out of the mire towards the safety zone, but



George Weah: Instrumental in three of Milan's four-goal romp.

its progress will be disputed by Piacenza after a 0-0 draw against Napoli and by Atalanta with its 1-1 draw against Cremonese.

With the three-point system and the greater

chances of UEFA Cup qualification much of the middle of the table can be construed as a potential spring-board for Europe.

Inter Milan's 1-0 win over Lazio was another reason for

the club's chairman Massimo Moratti to stand by the support he expressed yesterday for manager Roy Hodgson and his pledge to give him a more competitive team.

Alessandro Del Piero staked his claim for a place in the Juventus side to meet Real Madrid in a European Cup quarter-final tomorrow (Wednesday) with two goals in the champions' morale-boosting 5-0 win away to Padova.

The Italian international, prolific in the early part of the season but out of form in recent weeks, opened the scoring in the 28th minute with a free kick from wide on the left that crept in at the near post under Adriano Bonaiuti's body.

Attilio Lombardo, prime candidate to take Del Piero's place, added an opportunist second in the 42nd minute, before Del Piero put the result beyond doubt, breaking clear of the defence and dribbling round Bonaiuti.

Michele Padovano added two late goals to complete the thrashing.

The only sour notes for Juve ahead of its clash at the Bernabeu stadium, were the 80th minute dismissal of defender Massimo Carrera and a worrying injury to captain Gianluca Vialli, who limped off midway through

the first half with a gash to his right leg.

Parma, needed a last-minute penalty save from Luca Bucci to avoid a rare home defeat in their 1-1 draw with Roma.

The match was marred by a fight between Parma's Massimo Crippa and Roma's Daniel Fonseca. Both were sent off.

Earlier the Uruguayan had given the visitors a third minute lead only for Argentine Nestor Sensini to level in the 45th.

Parma play a European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final against Paris St Germain on Thursday.

The Serie B game between Foggia and Salernitana was abandoned with three minutes to go. A pitch invasion by Foggia fans followed the sending off of two of the home team's players.

In the 86th minute Salernitana were awarded a penalty and the first player was red carded for the offence. As a result of protests a second player was ordered off. The pitch invasion then began.

Around the same time one of the linesmen was struck on the head by an object thrown from the crowd. He was unable to continue and had to be replaced by the fourth official.

100 YEARS YOUNG

La Gazzetta dello Sport

Milan: Weah in a

Today the Gazzetta sells an average of 700,000 copies per day. On Mondays and on Thursdays after a European Cup evening this rises to over a million.

The Gazzetta is printed in Milan, Rome, Pompeii, Padua, Bari, Catania, Cagliari, Charleroi (Belgium) and New York.

Since 1995 a supplement is produced in tabloid format every Friday, which is devoted mainly to active sport, fitness and body care.

130 journalists are employed by the Gazzetta, and there are over 400 correspondents in Italy and abroad.

ITALIAN CUP

SEMI-FINAL - SECOND LEG

Atalanta.....2 Bologna.....0

(halftime 1-0)

Scorer: Christian Vieri (30th, penalty 90th)

Atalanta won 3-1 on aggregate.

Fiorentina.....1 Internazionale.....0

(0-0)

Scorer: Gabriel Batistuta (78th minute)

Fiorentina wins 4-1 on aggregate and will play Atalanta in the final.

EUROPEAN SUPER CUP

Ajax add to their trophies

AJAX 4
REAL ZARAGOZA 0
(5-1 AGGREGATE)

Ajax Amsterdam beat Spain's Real Zaragoza 4-0 last Wednesday to win the European Super Cup and complete a rare treble of cup wins.

The Dutch champions, already holders of the European Champions Cup and World Club Cup, added to their silverware collection after a bizarre affair which saw them awarded three penalties and play most of the second half against nine men.

Their goals came through Winston Bogarde after 41 minutes, Finidi George (53rd) and two penalties from Danny Blind in the 66th and 69th minutes.

After a lacklustre first period, the game burst into life five minutes before the break, with Ajax winning a penalty after some frenzied jostling in the Zaragoza area.

Frank de Boer, who moments before had been booked — keeping him out of this week's European Champions cup quarter-final against Borussia Dortmund — saw his left-foot effort palmed away by Andoni Cedrun in the Zaragoza goal.

From the resulting corner Bogarde opened the score, forcing home a rebound after his point-blank header had been blocked. Within minutes the Spaniards appealed in vain for a penalty at the other end after Dani went down under a challenge from Sonny Silooy, but a second tackle by the veteran defender on Morientes resulted in a free kick on the edge of the Ajax box.

Aragon's tame shot, one of Zaragoza's few efforts on goal, was easily dealt with by Edwin van der Sar.

Zaragoza, without Pardesa, Gustavo, Nayim, Solana and the cup-tied Argentine Sebastian Rambert, looked a shadow of the side that won the European Cup Winners' Cup last May.

Setting out to contain Ajax and hit them on the break, the Spaniards were run ragged by some neat, fluid passing moves orchestrated by midfielder Edgar Davids.

In the second half they fell apart.

After 53 minutes Bogarde advanced unopposed down the left, Cedrun flapped at his cross and allowed Nwankwo Kanu to slot home the second goal.



Edwin van der Sar: Had a quiet night in the Ajax goal.

After Ajax had let a couple of good chances go begging, the hapless keeper brought down Michael Reiziger in the 66th minute and received his marching orders.

Skipper Blind, who scored the decisive penalty against Gremio to win the World Club cup, made no mistake from the penalty spot and was back again three minutes later to make it 4-0 after Oscar fouled Kanu at the end of a mazy run. Scottish referee Lesley Mottram again showed the red card.

Ajax, missing injured striker Jari Litmanen and winger Marc Overmars, as well as the suspended Ronald de Boer, were roared on by the 22,000 crowd, but failed to add to the score, instead bleeding some of their youngsters ahead of what could be a

gruelling league run-in and European campaign.

Ajax last won the same grand slam 23 years ago in the heyday of Johan Cruyff.

Ajax Amsterdam: 1-Edwin van der Sar, 2-Michael Reiziger, 3-Danny Blind, 4-Frank de Boer, 5-Winston Bogarde, 6-Arnold Scholten (16-Dave van den Bergh 79th), 7-Finidi George (13-Robert Gehring 70th), 8-Edgar Davids, 9-Nwankwo Kanu, 10-Patrick Kluivert (15-Andrei Demtchenko 70th), 11-Sonny Silooy.

Real Zaragoza: 1-Andoni Cedrun (13-Belman 64th), 2-Alberto Belsue, 3-Jesus Garcia, 4-Fernando Caceres, 5-Oscar, 6-Xavier Aguado, 7-Gustavo Lopez, 8-Santiago Aragon, 9-Fernando Morientes (12-Carlos Cuartero 81st), 10-Francisco Higuera, 11-Dani.

Croatian Corner

BY JOHN VISKOVICH



PORTUGAL COACH RATES CROATIA

Portugal's coach Antonio Oliveira rates Croatia as the team to beat in Group D of this year's European Championship.

Croatia and Portugal are drawn with defending champions Denmark and debutants Turkey.

Oliveira said: "The Danes have experience, the Turks have some good individuals but Croatia is strong all over the park."

"They have Boban, Prosinecki, Suker, Bilić, Bokšić, Jarni etc."

"All play for well-known clubs in Europe and I won't be surprised if they win the tournament."

"I saw them outplay Italy in Palermo (final score, 2-1) and they did it without Alen Bokšić who was injured."

"Davor Suker is a top marksman, and he will score plenty of goals for Croatia."

"But I still rate my team a good chance for the semi-finals. Portugal at this moment also has some fine individual players even if we have failed to show our full potential as a team so far."

REWARDS THEN THE SACK

Rijecka coach and manager Josip Skoblar has been sacked and replaced by Nenad Gracan as player coach.

The Croatia coach Ciro Blazevic has been appointed the club's new director. Skoblar has yet to reveal his immediate future.

The sacking came as a shock as Skoblar had from France where the club he used to play for, Marseille, officially recognised him as their greatest goalscorer ever.

VLAOVIC A WANTED MAN

Goran Vlaovic has received a huge offer to leave Serie A club Padova for Spanish First Division club Valencia.

But at this stage, Inter Milan are favourites to sign Vlaovic who has indicated he will wait until after June's European Championship before making a decision.

Inter have also expressed interest in Real Madrid's Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano, young Brazilian Ronaldo of PSV Eindhoven and England's Alan Shearer.

AUSTRALIANS ABROAD

Australian Steve Horvat continues to impress at Hajduk Split who are second in the Croatian First Division.

The same cannot be said about Young Socceroo Josip Skoko who Hajduk Split have loaned to FC Split.

Former Melbourne Knights striker Ollie Pondeljak has been missing from Segesta's starting eleven in recent weeks but press reports say he is injured.

Socceroo Mark Viduka's goal tally at Croatia Zagreb is eight while Eddie Krnecic who had a stint with Viduka's team in the 1980s, is still starring for Charleroi in the Dutch First Division.

The 35-year-old Krnecic wants to steer his team to the UEFA Cup.

GERMAN CUP

Two Ks to meet in Final

Karlsruhe beat giantkiller Fortuna Duesseldorf 2-0 last Wednesday to set up a clash with its local rival Kaiserslautern in the German Cup Final in Berlin on May 25.

Fortuna, first-round conqueror of Bayern Munich, was always struggling in the semi-final, after Karlsruhe's Russian striker Sergei Kirjakow beat goalkeeper Georg Koch to open the scoring in the 16th minute.

Karlsruhe, who scored the last of its two German Cup successes 40 years ago, virtually ensured its place in the final with a second goal in the 79th minute.

German international midfielder Thomas Hassler ran on to a pass from Gunter Metz to beat Koch with a well-placed shot.

It was not to be Fortuna's night and it even missed a penalty when Bosnian Vlarko Glavas hit the bar from the spot, after Dirk Schuster had handled the ball.

Karlsruhe are running tenth in the Bundesliga with Kaiserslautern three places lower.

Kaiserslautern reached the German Cup Final for only the second time in its history when it beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 in the semi-final last week.

Kaiserslautern, won the cup on its only previous final appearance in 1990.

Kaiserslautern took the lead in the 35th minute when a shot by Czech midfielder Milos Kadlec was deflected past Leverkusen goalkeeper Dirk Heinen.

Its task was made easier after Leverkusen's Brazilian midfielder Paolo Sergio was sent off for stamping on Kaiserslautern's Oliver Schaefer in the 13th minute.

The home side was unrecognisable from the team languishing in the bottom half of the Bundesliga, taking the game to its opponent from the first minute.

Kaiserslautern's win was the perfect gift for coach Friedel Rausch, celebrating his 56th birthday, who has been under heavy pressure following the club's poor showing in the league and their early exit from the UEFA cup this season.



Thomas Hassler: His 79th minute successful strike sealed Fortuna's fate.





NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

AFRICAN COUNTRY RE-INSTATED

FIFA has lifted a ban on Niger playing in international competition, the head of the new national soccer federation said last week.

Hama Hima Souley told reporters the move followed the election of a new federation after a military coup in January which toppled the previous civilian government.

FIFA suspended the West African nation last August, accusing the then government of meddling in sporting affairs after it dissolved the old federation.

ADVANTAGE RULING CHANGE?

FIFA last week revealed it was discussing a change in soccer's advantage law.

FIFA will put a proposal to the International Board in Rio de Janeiro on March 9 that, should play break down after an advantage is given, a foul is then awarded for the original offence.

Currently, when play breaks down, the attacking team forfeits the right to a freekick.

FIFA's referees commission, which met last Wednesday, will also ask the board for a new rule whereby linesmen can alert the referee, at any time, to tell him of something which he failed to see.

However, FIFA has dropped any ideas of enlarging the goals, which some officials believed might increase the scoring rate and make the game more attractive.

BARCA FOR SPANISH CUP FINAL

Barcelona reached the Spanish Cup final for the first time for six years with a hard-fought 3-2 second-leg semi-final success at neighbour Espanyol last Wednesday for a 4-2 aggregate victory.

The Catalan derby heated up after 38 minutes when Espanyol's Javi Garcia took advantage of an error by Spanish international defender Sergi Barjuan who lost control of the ball and allowed Garcia to run through and score the opener.

But Espanyol's joy lasted just three minutes until Meho Kodro took advantage of lapses in the home defence to equalise.

Espanyol regained the lead when Ismael Urzaiz converted a 63rd minute penalty to send the home crowd delirious, while visiting supporters threw drink cans and other objects onto the pitch which could earn Barcelona a severe

reprimand from the Spanish Football Association.

Despite being a goal down, Barcelona fought back and took control of the game, although Guillermo Amor was lucky to score their second equaliser after 78 minutes when his shot appeared to take two deflections before finding the net.

With Barcelona's overall aggregate superiority already restored, Romanian international midfielder Gica Popescu gave them a 3-2 victory on the night with an 89th minute strike.

If Barcelona wins the final it will equal Athletic Bilbao's total of 23 final victories.

Its 22nd and last success was in 1990 when they beat Real Madrid 2-0.

ATLETICO LOSE BUT GO THROUGH

Atletico Madrid will meet Barcelona in the Spanish Cup final despite losing the semi-final second leg game 2-1 at home to Valencia last Thursday.

Atletico took the tie 6-5 on aggregate after winning the first leg 5-3.

Valencia, who needed to score at least three goals on the night, started strongly and went ahead in the 20th minute when Brazilian forward Viola knocked in a cross from Montenegrin midfielder Predrag Mijatovic.

Atletico struck back just before the break with a penalty from Serbian set-piece specialist Milinko Pantic after Jose Luis Caminero had been brought down in the area by Javier Navarro.

Navarro — who was involved in a running battle with Atletico's Bulgarian striker Lyuboslav Penev — had already picked up a yellow card and was lucky



Gica Popescu: His goal gave Barcelona a 3-2 win.

not to be sent off for the challenge.

Mijatovic and Viola continued to create problems in the second half, and in the 55th minute Fernando Gomez made it 2-1 with a fine shot from the edge of the area after the Atletico defence had failed to clear the ball after a free kick.

But Atletico hung on, and Valencia played the last five minutes with only 10 men after captain Francisco Camarasa picked up his second yellow card for a heavy challenge on Santi Denia.

ARSENAL STAR GETS CENSURED

Former England striker Ian Wright was given a severe censure last weekend after referring to a referee as a "little Hitler".

Wright had made the comment on his premier league club Arsenal's ClubCall, where fans can telephone to hear interviews with players.

During his interview, Wright dismissed referees in general as being

"incompetent" and of one, David Elleray, he said: "He's not there to be a little Hitler."

This followed Arsenal's league match at Aston Villa, when Wright was cautioned by Elleray.

"He was heavily censured and told that if he appears again before us for any similar matter he will be dealt with severely," said English F.A. spokesman Steve Double.

AUXERRE PLAYER GETS HAT-TRICK

French First Division leader Paris St Germain managed a narrow 1-0 win at mid-table Rennes while its nearest rivals for the title impressed with spectacular victories last Saturday.

A goal in the 20th minute by Brazilian World Cup player Rai confirmed PSG's recovery before Thursday's European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg away to Italy's Parma.

PSG, which ended a worrying sequence of four defeats by beating Lens 1-0

last Tuesday, is five points clear of second-placed Auxerre with Metz third a further point back.

But Auxerre, which has a game in hand, and Metz, which has played three games fewer than the leader, proved their challenges were not to be taken lightly with 4-0 demolitions of Martigues and Nice respectively.

Auxerre playmaker Corentin Martins, back in action after injury, proved he was fully fit by scoring a hat-trick with goals in the 16th, 32nd and 59th minutes.

Bottom-of-the-table Martigues, which has little hope of escaping relegation, suffered more punishment when substitute Fabrice Lepaul scored a fourth goal for the Burgundy club in the 62nd minute.

Metz was equally impressive against lowly Nice with two goals by Patrick Mboma, who scored in the 18th and 73rd minutes.

The other two goals came from Frederic Arpinon in the 21st minute and Robert Pires in the 76th.

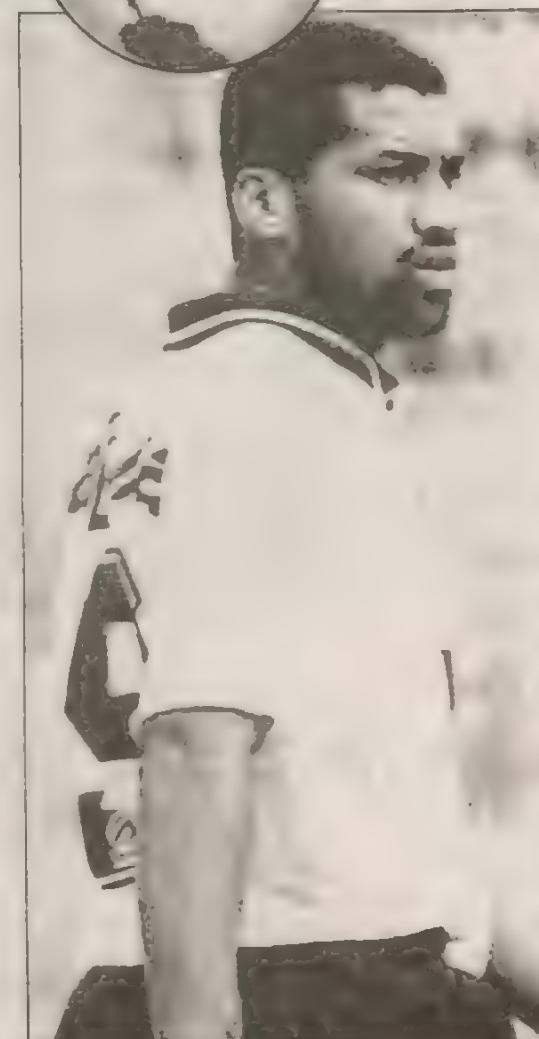
Champion Nantes, at home to Spartak Moscow in a European Cup quarter-final first leg tomorrow, fell 4-1 at Monaco with Brazilian Sonny Anderson scoring twice.

Bordeaux, the last French survivor in the UEFA Cup, suffered a 1-0 reverse at Lyon which will do its confidence little good as it prepares to face AC Milan at the San Siro stadium today.

UEFA MUST COMPLY WITH RULING NOW

UEFA have until today (Tuesday) to tell the European Commission they have changed the transfer fee system and nationality restrictions, a Commission spokeswoman said last week.

The Commission said in January that UEFA must respond within six weeks or face possible fines but



Viola: Knocked in a goal for Valencia in the Spanish Cup.

did not mention a specific date.

The European Union executive says the transfer fee rules and restrictions on non-national players a team can field, declared illegal in the European Court of Justice's so-called Bosman ruling, break EU competition laws.

UEFA has not yet formally responded to the Commission's warning, spokeswoman Barbara Nolan said.

It announced last month that it would scrap restrictions on foreign players in its club competitions but expected clubs to stick to voluntary restrictions until the end of the current season.

The Commission said it was only "partly satisfied" with that response, asking soccer clubs and associations to fall in line immediately with UEFA's commitment.

PSV STUN RODA WITH TREBLE

PSV Eindhoven showed that it is ready for Thursday's UEFA Cup quarter-final match against Barcelona with a convincing 3-0 victory over last year's Dutch runner-up Roda JC Kerkrade last Saturday.

The triumph boosted PSV into the Dutch league lead and made it favourite to beat Roda in the Dutch Cup semi-final.

In preparation for Barcelona, PSV did not want a tough battle and its prayers were answered when its first goal came just three minutes into the match through striker Rene Eijkelkamp.

After the goal, PSV continued to push Roda back.

A strike by Eijkelkamp hit the post then in the 42nd minute Belgian midfielder Luc Nilis doubled the score, reaching a pass from midfielder Wim Jonk, dribbling past goalkeeper Ruud Hesp and netting easily.

In the second half PSV expended a little less energy, but it was enough to leave Roda without a chance. In the 71st minute substitute Bjorn van der Doelen made it 3-0 with an individual effort.

PSV leads with 57 points from 23 matches. Ajax trails by one point but has two matches in hand.

HAVELANGE PLEASED WITH MARADONA

FIFA president Joao Havelange congratulated Diego Maradona last Saturday for his sincerity over his drugs ban.

At the beginning of January this year, Argentina's Maradona admitted taking drugs and announced he would work in the fight against drugs from then on.

Havelange arrived at Mar del Plata to watch the end of the South American pre-Olympic tournament.

He further announced FIFA's executive committee would decide on May 31 how to solve the problem of Bolivia's international matches at 3,500m above sea level, which some observers believe gives them an unfair advantage.



Arsenal's Ian Wright: His "little Hitler" comment earned him a severe censure.

WORLD RESULTS & TAB

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Coventry	2	West Ham	2
Leeds	0	Bolton	1
Manchester City	1	Blackburn	1
Middlesbrough	0	Everton	2
QPR	1	Arsenal	1
Sheffield Wed	1	Nottingham Forest	3
Tottenham	1	Southampton	0
Wimbledon	1	Chelsea	1
Liverpool	3	Aston Villa	0

Playing Monday:

Newcastle v Manchester Utd

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Birmingham	0	Sheffield Utd	1
Derby	3	Huddersfield	2
Luton	0	Crystal Palace	0
Millwall	0	Wolverhampton	1
Portsmouth	2	Charlton	1
Reading	0	Watford	0
Southend	1	Norwich	1
Stoke	2	Barnsley	0
West Bromwich	1	Port Vale	1
Grimsby	0	Sunderland	4
Ipswich	4	Leicester	2
Oldham	1	Tranmere	2

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Bournemouth	0	Oxford	1
Bradford	2	York	2
Brighton	0	Brentford	0
Bristol Rovers	2	Shrewsbury	1
Burnley	0	Blackpool	1
Carlisle	0	Stockport	1
Molts County	1	Hull	0
Peterborough	0	Chesterfield	1
Swansea	2	Bristol City	1
Walsall	3	Rotherham	1
Wrexham	2	Crewe	3
Wycombe	1	Swindon	2

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Bury	3	Scunthorpe	0
Chester	4	Cardiff	0
Doncaster	1	Darlington	2
Fulham	1	Lincoln	2
Hereford	1	Northampton	0
Leyton Orient	0	Colchester	1
Mansfield	2	Barnet	1
Plymouth	1	Gillingham	0
Preston	1	Rochdale	2
Scarborough	1	Hartlepool	2
Torquay	0	Exeter	2
Wigan	3	Cambridge	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen	3	Kilmarnock	0
Celtic	4	Hearts	0
Motherwell	1	Paisley	0
Partick	0	Raith	3
Hibernian	0	Rangers	2

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Airdrieonians	1	Dundee Utd	1
Clydebank	1	St Johnstone	2
Dundee	3	Dumbarton	0
Dunfermline	4	Greenock Morton	1
St Mirren	0	Hamilton	1

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Ayr	5	Berwick	0
Forfar	3	Stenhousemuir	1
Queen of the South	2	Clyde	1
Stirling	2	East Fife	2
Stranraer	1	Montrose	2

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

Albion	1	Arbroath	1
Cowdenbeath	3	Alloa	0
East Stirling	2	Brechin	0
Livingston	2	Caledonian Thistle	2
Queen's Park	0	Ross County	0

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Newcastle	27	19	4	4	52	25	61
Manchester Utd	28	17	6	5	55	29	57
Liverpool	28	16	7	5	56	24	55
Aston Villa	28	14	7	7	39	24	49

LEEDS

Middlesbrough	29	9	7	13	28	39	34
Sheffield Wed	28	7	8	13	37	46	29
Wimbledon	28	6	8	14	40	56	26
Coventry	28	5	11	12	35	51	26
Manchester City	28	6	8	14	20	40	26
Southampton	27	5	10	12	27	40	25
QPR	28	6	4	18	23	42	22
Bolton	29	5	4	20	29	58	19

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Derby

Sunderland

Charlton

Stoke

Huddersfield

Barnsley

Ipswich

Leicester

Crystal Palace

Southend

Millwall

Portsmouth

Tranmere

Birmingham

Grimsby

Sunderland

Wolverhampton

Port Vale

Watford

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Swindon

Blackpool

Crewe

Notts County

Chesterfield

Oxford

Bristol Rovers

Stockport

Wrexham

Bradford

Bristol City

Wycombe

Bournemouth

Shrewsbury

Peterborough

Burnley

Rotherham

Walsall

Brentford

York

Swansea

Carlisle

Brighton

Hull

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Gillingham

Preston

Darlington

Plymouth

Chester

Bury

Wigan

Colchester

Doncaster

Northampton

Barnet

Exeter

Rochdale

Hereford

Hartlepool

Scunthorpe

Mansfield

Leyton Orient

Scarborough

Lincoln

Cardiff

Hearts

Hibernian

Raith

Kilmarnock

Motherwell

Falkirk

Partick

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Dunfermline

Dundee Utd

St Johnstone

Greenock Morton</h3

SOUTH AMERICA

- COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHEART -

Velez capture yet another trophy

Velez Sarsfield added a new trophy to its record by winning the Inter American Cup.

The Argentine champion defeated Cartagines of Costa Rica, winner of the Concacaf club championship, 2-0, at Velez's home ground, in front of a crowd of 10,000.

Striker Jose Flores scored both goals for Velez in the third minute of the first half, and in the 31st of the second period. The first game, played in the Costa Rican city of Cartago ended in a 0-0 draw.

Velez is the fourth Argentine club to win the Cup. The previous winners were Estudiantes de La Plata, Independiente, River Plate and Argentinos Juniors.

VELEZ SARSFIELD: Jose Chilavert, Sebastian Mendez, Flavio Zandonà, Carlos Campagnucci, Raul Cardozo, Hugo Herrera, Marcelo Gomez, Patricio Camps, Martin Posse, Fernando Pandolfi, Jose Flores.

Coach: Carlos Bianchi.

CARTAGINES: Herminio Barrantes, Evaristo Contreras, Maximiliano Peinado, Henry Good, Marco Hidalgo, Alexander Madrigal, Luis Do Santos, Alexander Gomez, Jewisson Bennett, Max Sanchez, Everaldo Da Costa.

Coach: Rolando Villalobos.

briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...

→ Diego Maradona is again the centre of attention in Argentina. The former Argentine captain announced that he will play until the age of 40 years.

The controversial president of the World Players Association stated that he will play for Boca Juniors until the end of his contract.

"I want to prove to my detractors that I will be able to play for another five years", said Maradona.

Maradona added that "1996 will be the best year of my career. I will try to be in my best physical form to show everybody what I'm capable of".

His intention of buying Uruguayan first division club Sud America for a reported US\$450,000 could be just that - a good intention.

→ Juan Pablo Sorin the captain of the Argentine under-20 World Cup winning team was transferred, on loan, from Italian club Juventus to River Plate of Argentina. The Argentine club will pay Juventus \$A250,000.

If River Plate wants to buy the player they will have to pay an extra \$A1.4 million.

→ Romario and Bebeto will play together again at Madrid's Chamartin stadium on April 30.

They will be part of the Hugo Sanchez testimonial, playing for the "Rest of the World" against Sanchez's former club, Real Madrid.

It will be the first time they have played together since the final of the 1994 World Cup.

→ Brazilian under-23 defender, Arilson, who plays for German first division club Kaiserslautern, has abandoned the national team and returned to Germany.

Arilson didn't feel comfortable with the rest of the squad and officials, according to an unofficial source.

Mario Zagalo, the coach announced that Arilson won't be recalled ever again while he is in charge.

→ Former Paraguayan international midfielde, Luis

briefs... briefs... briefs... briefs...



Juan Pablo Sorin: On loan to River Plate from Juventus.

Alberto Monzon, 25 has signed with Argentine club Huracan.

Monzon is on a one year loan from Mexican first division club Cruz Azul (Blue Cross).

The attacking midfielder won the Libertadores Cup in 1990 with Paraguayan champion Olimpia.

→ After his failure in Argentine football, Mexican international midfielder Alberto Garcia Aspe has returned to his country.

Aspe played very few games for River Plate, and never reached his best form.

→ Universidad Santa Catarina of Brazil won the third International University Championship, played in Maldonado, Uruguay.

They defeated the University of Cagliari, from Italy, 7-1 in the final.

→ Former Uruguayan international midfielde Ruben Paz, 35, has signed with Argentine second division club Godoy Cruz until June — Paz will receive a total salary of \$A120,000.

briefs... briefs... briefs...

Boca want Matthaus

Newly elected Boca Juniors president, Mauricio Macri, has travelled to Europe with the intention of convincing former German international star Lothar Matthaus to play for his club.

Matthaus, who's going through a difficult time with his wife, and is at the verge of ending the relationship, wants to leave Germany for a while.

Macri's dream team, according to the prestigious Argentine sport magazine "El Grafico", is the following:

Goalkeeper: Jose Luis Chilavert (Velez Sarsfield).

Defenders: Julio Cesar Saldana, Roberto Luis Trotta (Velez Sarsfield), Lothar Matthaus (Bayern Munich), Carlos Javier Mac Allister.

Midfielders: Jose Horacio Basualdo (already signed from Velez Sarsfield), Fabian Gustavo Carrizo, Cristian Alberto Gonzalez, Diego Armando Maradona.

Strikers: Claudio Paul Caniggia (signed until the end of the Argentine soccer league Second Phase), Sergio Martinez.



Lothar Matthaus: Part of Boca Juniors' "dream team".

MARADONA FACES JAIL TERM

Argentina's Supreme Court opened the door to a possible jail term for Diego Maradona last week by rejecting his request to perform community service for allegedly shooting reporters with an air rifle in 1994.

"The court's decision was unanimous," Supreme Court Judge Guillermo Lopez told reporters.

The judge in charge of Maradona's case is due to give a verdict and, if the soccer star is found guilty, a sentence in the next few weeks.

State prosecutor Alejandro Caride wants a four-year sentence and argues that Maradona is guilty of five woundings.

Maradona allegedly opened fire at journalists besieging him outside his country home in February 1994, one day after he was sacked by his club for not turning up to practice.

CATTLE AS WINNING BONUS

In-debt Brazilian second division club Londrina is rewarding its players for good performances by giving them cattle instead of cash bonuses.

Club president Marcelo Caldarelli said he invented the unusual scheme after finding the club \$A6.57 million in debt on taking office at the start of the year.

"There was no point in giving cheques because they just bounced," he said. The cattle rancher President, who donates his own animals to the club, has

so far parted with 20 cattle but it could cost him another 50 depending on performances in future games.

He said that eventually he would auction the cattle, which have been separated from the rest of the herd and given their own paddock, and then give the proceeds to the players.

Caldarelli had already caused a stir at the start of his term by appointing soap opera star Nuno Leal Maia as coach. Maia is a soccer fanatic who had a trial with Santos as a youngster but has never had coaching experience with a major club.

He said the club's current debt had been reduced to around \$A2.63 million.

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST STAGE

America/Sao Jose	3	Corinthians	3
Aracatuba	2	Juventus	0
Botafogo/R Preto	2	Sao Paulo	3
Guarani	1	Ferroviaria	0
Palmeiras	3	Portuguesa	1
Rio Branco	1	Uniao Sao Joao	0
Santos	1	Novorizontino	1
XV de Jau	0	Mogi Mirim	1

TABLE

Palmeiras	7	6	1	0	25	4	19
Portuguesa	7	5	1	1	16	8	16
Sao Paulo	7	5	1	1	16	7	15
Corinthians	7	4	3	0	19	7	15
Mogi Mirim	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Santos	7	3	2	2	13	10	11
Juventus	7	3	0	4	6	10	9
Novorizontino	7	2	3	2	10	12	9
Rio Branco	7	2	2	3	6	9	8
Aracatuba	7	2	2	3	7	13	8
XV de Jau	7	2	0	5	5	16	6
Uniao Sao Joao	7	1	3	3	9	9	6
America	6	1	2	3	9	12	5
Guarani	7	1	2	4	4	15	5
Botafogo	7	0	3	4	6	10	3
Ferroviaria	7	0	2	5	5	17	2

OLYMPIC '96 QUALIFIERS

GROUP A

Peru 2 Bolivia 1 (halftime 2-1)

Scorers: Peru - Lazo (31), Solano (39)

Bolivia - Coimbra (44)

Uruguay 3 Paraguay 2 (0-1)

Scorers: Uruguay - Sosa (50m), Dos Santos (71), Abeijon (79) Paraguay - Espinola (27), Avalos (72)

Bolivia 4 Paraguay 1

Scorers: Bolivia - Milton Coimbra (15, 28, 35) Liberia Gutierrez (37)

Paraguay - Carlos Espinola (45)

Brazil 0 Uruguay 0

TABLE

Brazil	4	3	1	0	11	3	10
Uruguay	4	3	1	0	9	4	10
Bolivia	4	1	0	3	6	9	3
Paraguay	4	1	0	3	8	12	3
Peru	4	1	0	3	7	13	3

GROUP B

Chile 0 Venezuela 0

Argentina 4 Colombia 0 (halftime 3-0)

Scorers - Crespo 3, 16, 52' Gonzalez 9

TABLE

Argentina	4	4	0	0	15	1	12
Venezuela	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Chile	4	1	2	1	8	5	5
Colombia	4	0	2	2	6	11	2
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	5	18	1

FINAL ROUND

Brazil 3 Uruguay 1

Scorers: Brazil - (Juninho 33 and 67, Beto 37)

Uruguay - (Andres Fleurquin 80)

Argentina 2 Venezuela 0

Scorers: Argentina - (Hernan Crespo 70, Claudio Lopez 88)

TABLE

Brazil	2	2	0	0	8	1</td

US Awaits Major Success

BY PAUL GARDNER*

In the wake of the World Cup USA '94, football in the USA aspires to new heights. The launching of Major League Soccer (MLS) on the Easter weekend is a renewed attempt to get a professional league off the ground.

The confidence of both FIFA and the United States Soccer Federation that World Cup 94 would be a smash hit was spectacularly borne out with record attendance. More than 3.58 million fans turned out, over 1 million more than in any previous World Cup.

But the award of the tournament to the United States had always been made in anticipation of it serving as the springboard for the launching of a national professional league in the USA.

At one point there had been suggestions that a pro league should be ready to start up in the summer of 1994, as soon as the tournament finished. But this was never a practical idea: the resources of the USSF were fully stretched by World Cup demands.

Alan Rothenberg, doing triple duty as the USSF President, the Chairman of the World Cup Organising Committee, and the head of the new league,

announced a more realistic starting date for Major League Soccer, or MLS, as the league was to be called.

Spring 1995. A lively logo and a unique business plan were revealed at the end of 1993. MLS would operate under a "single entity" plan — a scheme devised to minimise business competition between the member clubs, and to maximise their co-operation in such matters as marketing,

sponsorship, and so on.

By late 1994 it was clear that MLS — which at that point was little more than an office in Los Angeles, a logo and a group of cities that had expressed an interest in having a team — needed more time to attract the investors who would ensure a solid financial base.



unwise decision had to be made: the MLS debut was again put off, this time until the northern spring 1996.

Throughout 1995, the league slowly took shape. The process was, to put it mildly, an unfamiliar one, because the league seemed to be developing backwards.

The awkward but not

name, next the ten cities that would field teams, a series of announcements about sponsorship deals, and then the signing of a television deal.

All before any club names had been decided, and before a single coach or player had been signed!

The players are to be predominantly American. MLS is satisfied that there are now enough American players who can play high-calibre professional football.

This has meant that between 150 and 200 American players have been enrolled into the player pool.

The most startling part of the single-entity format is that the league itself, the MLS, owns all the players.

The aim is to avoid the clubs getting into expensive bidding wars to sign star players. The MLS signs the players and negotiates their contracts.

A draft was held in February, at which the coaches from the MLS clubs selected from the pool of already-signed players. One further, highly significant restriction on player signings: all MLS clubs must adhere to a salary cap of \$1.3 million to cover the salaries of all 18 players.

The regulations are intended to maintain financial parity among the clubs. What might be called the "Cosmos factor" looms large in the thinking of the MLS: the feeling, right or wrong, that the old NASL (North American Soccer League) which operated between 1967 and 1983, was unbalanced by the vast financial resources of the New York Cosmos.

* PAUL GARDNER is a columnist for the weekly *Soccer America*.

MLS: FACTS AND FIGURES

SEASON STARTS: 6 April 1996

SEASON ENDS: 20 October 1996

NUMBER OF TEAMS: 10

WESTERN CONFERENCE: Dallas Burn, Colorado Rapids (Denver), Kansas City Wiz, Los Angeles Galaxy, San Jose Clash.

ESTERN CONFERENCE: New England Revolution (Boston), Columbus Crew, New York/New Jersey Metrostars, Tampa Bay Mutiny, Washington DC United.

REGULAR SEASON: 32 games per team: each team plays four times against the other in its own conference and four times against one team from the other conference: in addition they play three times against the other four teams of the other conference.

PLAYOFFS: best-of-three semi-final of the two conference winners plus a final match at a neutral venue.

BUDGET: 80 million dollars for four years.

PLAYERS: the teams are mostly composed of players from the pool of American college players. In addition there are some overseas players.

FOREIGNERS: each team is allowed to have between three and five foreign players under contract.

MOST PROMINENT PLAYERS: Alexi Lalas, Tab Ramos, Mike Lapper (all USA, World Cup '94), Jorge Campos (Mexico) and Marco Etcheverry (Bolivia), Roberto Donadoni (AC Milan).

Major League Soccer THE TEAMS

LOS ANGELES GALAXY



LA has long had its galaxy of stars in Hollywood and no doubt hopes the new MLS team will also sparkle; the energetic spinning logo should convey the pace of the city and of the game.

KANSAS CITY WIZ



No real local connections it seems but instead a play on the name of the popular musical the Wizard of Oz — the rainbow strips coming from the musical's most famous song, Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

COLORADO RAPIDS



Colorado is a mountain State of rushing rivers in the Rockies, fast and free as no doubt the fans in Denver hope their team's football will be.

TAMPA BAY MUTINY



Despite Tampa Bay's ocean location and the nautical overtones of the new club name, the logo contains instead what its creators call a "cybermutant from the dark blue depths of space...soccer reaching the fourth dimension."

NEW YORK METROSTARS



The logo aims to project the non-stop activity of a big city that never sleeps, the skyscraper metropolis stretching from home-town New York out to New Jersey and the site of the Giants Stadium.

DALLAS BURN



The fire-breathing mustang shows raw horsepower and speed in the high-cum-bustion Texan oilfield; "Burn" is a reference not only to Texas' most famous export but also to the effects of the summer sun.

COLUMBUS CREW



Columbus Ohio has the image of a hard-working Middle American city and the name Crew, together with the three workers in hard-hats, reflect these demographics; the Crew aims to be the hardest working team in the new league.

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION



A tribute to the crucial role played in the American Revolutionary War, 220 years ago, by the patriotic part of the United States.

DC UNITED



The only traditional football team name in the MLS, as the team from the federal capital aims for international and community appeal not least through the eagle, a symbol of freedom and strength and of the United States itself.

SAN JOSE CLASH



"Clash" is a favourite media word for an intense confrontation between close rivals, and the new Clash team hope to play like a scorpion: quick and lethal, defending by attacking.

UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER



QUICK ONE-TWO

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This week my column is devoted to three book reviews.
The Rating is out of a possible five.

GRAEME SOUNESS... A soccer Revolutionary

BY STEPHEN F. KELLY

Young Mr Kelly is a prolific writer on football, be it from Man. Utd. to this offering and in all honesty, he is astute and pretty well informed on the game and his books are generally of a high standard. This one is no exception.

You are left in absolutely no doubt that the sacking of Souness from Liverpool was inevitable because the board twice met to discuss the situation at Anfield and twice they bottled out of doing anything. One thing for sure and certain is you could never accuse Graeme of "mental frailty" and the old adage of "your strength becomes your weakness" is also highlighted here.

Souness "fronted" the Liverpool board and twice they backed down. If he were of a frail disposition he could never have achieved what he did at Glasgow Rangers — which at the time were still a poor second or third behind Celtic and Aberdeen, not forgetting he was also the first manager to sign a Catholic for Rangers and this was explained at one of his dinner evenings as being "more soul destroying to Celtic than anything else".

They thought they had Mo Johnstone signed, sealed and delivered but by us signing him it did more damage to their morale than anything else. It was a tactical move".

Cheek, audacity and nerve, a magical combination . . . or is it? Some would have you believe that he made players feel like captives instead of footballers and reports also suggest the only player under Souness to have a good word for him is Jamie Redknapp. Not a great return from the players for a manager who gained so much at Rangers but mysteriously not at Liverpool.

As we know, Graeme is at present managing Galatasaray in Turkey and a few lines from the book say: "It would take a certain kind of club and Chairman to entice him back into management (written before heading off to Turkey) as it would cost them millions not only in transfer fees but also through broken crockery and upset tea-urns during the half-time talks!"

What is abundantly clear though is the fact that Souness is a very charismatic gentleman with a well developed brain that he uses to great effect. (As with any book, some of the writer's thoughts may not be those of the reader and/or the reviewer).

Excellent book by Kelly once more and an informed insight into a great man — both as player and manager, extended into the photographs too. Available through Hodder Headline once more and priced at \$16.95.

A must for all Liverpool and Rangers fans but also anyone with an interest in the game. Great reading and I don't say this lightly but if you get the chance to read any other titles by Mr Kelly, give it a go, intelligent reading.

Rating: ★★

Exciting news for fans of UK Soccer, Fox Sports on Galaxy/Foxtel have a host of matches "LIVE" from both sides of the border. Here is a quick glance at what you can expect: (Because of the amount of draws an unseasonal weather in the UK this term, please check which teams make it through to the various games or ring Martin White at the Greenwood Tree Hotel for those they'll be showing on (02) 331 1563):

10 March: FA CUP 6th Rd game one LIVE — 2.00 am
11 March: FA CUP 6th Rd game two LIVE — 2.00 am
12 March: FA CUP 6th Rd game three LIVE — 7.00 am
18 March: Scottish P/L Rangers V Celtic LIVE — 12.15 am

CANTONA... My story

BY ERIC CANTONA

After all the adverse publicity brought about by "that incident" at Crystal Palace — quite rightly so — this book is a bit of a surprise. It offers an insight into one of the game's great players and also what influences have made him the man he is.

The magazine Four Four Two had this to say: "Cantona has remained true to his own convictions in this autobiography which rings with a kind of candour you no longer expect from sporting memoirs". I believe this was written by Karen Buchanan — though I could be wrong.

Coupled with over 50 photographs — some in full and glorious colour — which cover his younger days in France right up to the 1994/95 season and helps set the book apart from others.

His interest in art, poetry, films etc. are widely known as well as his interest in some of the world's great writers. A man who extends his mind as well as his body for sport but perhaps the best way to describe the lad is through his own words in the introduction (reproduced with kind thanks to Hodder Headline).



Eric Cantona: A highly intelligent individual who always, always is himself.

Certainly you should listen and give advice to others and take this advice of others but always, always be yourself."

No-one could accuse Eric of not doing/being just that. His thoughts are often deep, but provoking, just like his style of play, which if you admire should lend you to enjoying this book. Priced at \$14.95 and available through leading book stores. Printed by Hodder Headline once more and certainly worth a read by all United fans, both Leeds and Manchester, but a fascinating look into what makes Cantona tick for all readers.

Rating: ★★

EVERYWHERE WE GO... Behind the matchday madness

BY DOUGIE and EDDIE BRIMSON

Upon reading the shorts for this I thought "this is not the book for me" and now having read it my views are not changed but rather "altered" for want of a better word.

"Everywhere we go" has been written by two Watford fans and enters the world of violence and hooliganism at football in the UK and though the vast majority of us will never condone this sort of behaviour, the book is compelling. As the authors state: "Football related violence is extremely organised but it's for the like-minded and not the average fan. It's best when "you're up for it" and take out their mob and not the innocent bystanders".

Though that sounds like a very nice phrase, it was usually the poor innocents that had to cop it, especially in the late 70s and early 80s when attempting to "take their end" was the norm. When these fights broke out it was a case of hit out or get a slapping yourself.

Many examples are used within the pages from members of the mobs, policemen, victims, spotters, scouts etc. and most are graphic to say the least.

A question to ask: "Does this book glorify the thug element or question it?" The only answer to that is to read the book for yourself and decide.

An example of that is the account of the Dublin riot which is written by a member of the BNP (British National Party), an extreme right wing political group.

A well organised act, almost a military manouevre and one which questions a lot of what happened or indeed, those who allowed it to happen.

Football violence is seen as "the British disease" throughout the world? Therefore trouble only happens in Britain . . . well no not at all really.

Easy target, easy story. (Anyone who watched the Italian film last week on SBS — "Hooligans", directed by Ricky Tognazzi in 1991 — will see that it is not just an "English thing").

However, the book delves deeper into WHY it happens. It's not as some would have us believe a "spur of the moment" thing and most "offs" take weeks of planning.

The Germans, Dutch, Italians etc. also have their "mobs who are up for it" and like to give it "the big one" but the coverage is slight about their actions (more people die in Italy and South America from football related violence than in the UK as an example).

A sad fact that anyone has to give their life for a sport they love but unfortunately it DOES happen).

"Every where we go" is a compelling book, makes fascinating reading and is published by Hodder Headline. The price is \$16.95 in Australia and can be obtained from all good bookshops (if they have not got a copy they can order one in through the Australian operation of the company).

Can't condone it, can't praise it, don't want to be involved in it but the book is good, not light reading, and contains a lot of truths that most of us can relate to. Worth a read if only for tips on what and what not to do at ANY football match.

Rating: ★★★

Illustrious Liverpool career nears its end

Striker Ian Rush said last week he would be leaving Liverpool on a free transfer at the end of the season after spending 15 years at Anfield.

Rush, 34, who has a career total of 404 goals including a record 345 for Liverpool, is still club captain but has failed to dislodge young strikers Stan Collymore or Robbie Fowler from the starting line-up since recovering from a cartilage operation in November.

"I must look to my future," Rush was quoted as saying by English newspapers on Tuesday, "and so must Liverpool. It will be a massive wrench to leave but I have reluctantly decided it is time to move on."

"I believe I have two years left in me and I can score goals at the highest level, but to do so I need to be playing regularly."

"I wanted to go before the transfer deadline, but have agreed to stay until the end of the season. The last thing I want to do is upset anyone at Anfield because they have always treated me brilliantly and they know if I am needed I will always give my best."

Manager Roy Evans said: "He has been honest with us and I hope he feels we have treated him in the same way. We have come to an arrangement



Ian Rush: Will leave Liverpool with a pocket-full of medals at the end of the season.

which means he will stay until the end of the season."

Rush first joined Liverpool from his local side

Chester for \$462,200 in May 1980 and has spent 15 of the last 16 years at Anfield. He signed to play in Italy

At least a dozen clubs have already expressed an interest in signing him, including Manchester City, Middlesbrough, Leeds, and clubs in the new American League and the J.League in Japan. However, fellow Merseyside club, Tranmere Rovers, could be at the head of the queue.



in 1987. Juventus obtained the ace goalscorer for a nearly \$45 million fee but he had an unhappy time and he was released after just twelve months. Rush returned to Liverpool.

With Liverpool he has won five league championships, three F.A. Cups, five League Cups and one European Cup. The goals for Liverpool are divided up as follows: 228 in the League, 39 in the F.A. Cup, 48 in the League Cup, 20 in European competition and 10 in other matches.

He needs just 17 more league goals to beat Roger Hunt's league scoring record for the club — now likely to be one of the few achievements he will miss out on at Anfield.

Premier League Team

PROBLEMS CHELSEA

BY STUART JONES

Dmitri Kharine (G) — Born Moscow in 1968. Left CSKA Moscow for Chelsea. Russian international.

Kevin Hitchcock (G) — Born Custom House in 1962. Left Barking for Nottingham Forest where he did not make a league first team appearance. Moved to Mansfield first on loan and then signed for the club.

Moved to Chelsea and in his time at the club has been loaned out to Northampton Town and West Ham.

Steve Clarke (D) — Born Saltcoats in 1963. Left Beith J for St Mirren in Scotland where he played 151 times. Moved to Chelsea and has made over 250 appearances for the club. Scotland International debut 1988.

Michael Duberry (D) — Born Enfield in 1975. Was a trainee at Chelsea has only made a handful of first team appearances.

Erland Johnsen (D) — Born Fredrikstad Norway in 1967. Left Bayern Munich for Chelsea. Finland international.

David Lee (D) — Born Kingswood in 1969. Chelsea has been his only permanent club but has had loan spells out at Reading, Plymouth and Portsmouth.

Terry Phelan (D) — Born Manchester in 1967. Was trainee at Leeds United where he played 14 times in the first team before moving to Swansea. He was then part of the crazy gang at Wimbledon before a big money move to Manchester City. This season he has moved back to London at Chelsea. Ireland international.

Ruud Gullitt (D/M/F) — Born Surinam in 1962. Played for DWS Amsterdam before moving to Haarlem. Then a move to Feyenoord then to PSV Eindhoven before joining AC Milan in Italy.

Moved to Sampdoria then back to AC Milan then back to Sampdoria before his summer transfer to Chelsea. Holland international.

Dennis Wise (M) — Born Kensington in 1966. Wimbledon took him as a youngster from Southampton.

Wise played 135 league games for them before moving to Chelsea where he has played over 150 games. England International.

Nigel Spackman (M) — Born Ramsey in 1960. Was at Andover when Bournemouth picked him up. Then moved to Chelsea playing 141 games before playing for Liverpool 51 times in the league.

Then moved to QPR before a move to the other Rangers — this time in Scotland. Finally moved back to Chelsea where he's played another 50 odd league games. 500 league games in total.

Dan Petrescu (M) — Born Bucharest in 1967. Left Genoa for Sheffield Wednesday. This season moved to Chelsea. International star for Romania.

Gavin Peacock (M/F) — Born Kent in 1967. Was an apprentice at QPR before playing for Gillingham and Bournemouth. Then moved to Newcastle and helped them move in to the Premier League — was then moved onto Chelsea.

Mark Stein (F) — Born South Africa in 1966. Played for Luton with his brothers. Had a loan spell at Aldershot before moving to QPR.

Then moved to Oxford and Stoke before finally moving to Chelsea. Before this season had made 42 appearances for Chelsea and scored 21 goals.

John Spencer (F) — Born Glasgow in 1970. Left Rangers Am BC for Rangers. Was loaned to Morton before moving to Hong Kong before returning to Rangers.

Played 13 games with them (the first time he'd played in the first team in the League) before moving to Chelsea. Scotland caps.

Paul Furlong (F) — Born London in 1968. Was playing at Enfield when Coventry City came in for him. Then moved to Watford where he played 79 games for 37 goals before his big signing with Chelsea.

Mark Hughes (F) — Born 1963 in Wrexham. Apprentice at Manchester United. Moved to Barcelona for a brief spell before a move to Bayern Munich on loan.

Moved back to Manchester United where he had great success playing for them a further 256 times in the league scoring 82 goals (making his total for the club in the league 129 goals/345 games).

Moved to Chelsea in the summer. Wales international.

Manager of Chelsea is former Spurs and England star Glenn Hoddle. He was previously on the books for Chelsea but never played a league game for them until he returned as player manager after stints at Monaco and Swindon (where he was a successful Player/Manager).

Retired from playing at the end of last season.



RATINGS OF ENGLISH GROUNDS

TEAM	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	Notts County	OLDHAM ATH.
GROUND	City Ground	Meadow Lane	Boundary Park
ADDRESS	Nottingham NG2 5F1	Nottingham NG2 3HI	Oldham OL1 2PA
CAPACITY	30,539	20,300	13,544
RECORD GATE	49,946 (1967)	47,310 (1955)	47,671 (1930)
DEBUT	1898	1910	1906
BY RAIL	Nottingham Midland	Nottingham Midland	Oldham Werneth
COMMENTS	Great improvements have seen this ground chosen as a Euro 96 ground. Looks terrific!	Tardy look outside is okay inside. Old ground that needs improvement.	Heaps of room to expand — and they need to! Not the best looking ground — and surface can be dodgy sometimes.
ACCESSIBILITY RATING /5	3.5	3	2.5
OVERALL GROUND RATING /10	8	6	5

LIVERPOOL SPOIL VILLA RECORD

Two goals from Robbie Fowler and one from Steve McManaman — all scored inside the opening eight minutes — gave Liverpool a 3-0 win over Aston Villa last Sunday to keep it in the hunt for the English league title.

The result stretched Liverpool's unbeaten run to 16 matches and moved it to 55 points from 28 games — six behind leader Newcastle (61 points) which played second-placed Manchester United (57) last night.

Liverpool could hardly have hoped for a better start against a fourth-placed Villa side who came into the match boasting the best defensive record in the league having conceded only 21 goals.

But within eight minutes that record was shot to pieces as first McManaman after two minutes, then Fowler after five and eight minutes, found gaping holes in the Villa defence.

McManaman fired home a well taken volley created by John Barnes, and Fowler made it 2-0 with a superbly-taken individual goal, rounding defender Steve Staunton with a deft touch before blasting the ball home with a powerful 20-metre left-footed shot.

With Villa still reeling from that double blow, Fowler took his tally for the season to 29 when he made it 3-0 with an angled left-foot shot which Villa's Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich failed to hold.

Villa came back into the match more in the second half and Savo Milosevic went close in the 72nd minute but saw his shot beaten away for a corner by Liverpool goalkeeper David James. A few minutes later defender Gareth Southgate headed against James's left-hand post.

Fowler, voted the man of the match, said that Liverpool had still not given up hope of landing its first title since 1990.

"We just have to keep playing like that and hope that the two teams in front of us start slipping up," he said.

La Coruna come back against Atletico

A late goal cost Atletico Madrid the chance to pull further ahead at the top of the Spanish First Division last Sunday when they were held to a 2-2 draw at Deportivo Coruna.

But despite dropping two points it was still a good result for Spain's champions-elect after a weekend in which all their rivals for the title faltered.

Atletico stay eight points ahead of Barcelona, who could only manage a goalless draw at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday, while Compostela, Valencia and Espanyol — third, fourth and fifth respectively — all lost.

Atletico went ahead just before half-time when Bulgarian striker Lyuboslav Penev slipped his marker at the near post to head home a corner from Serbian winger Milinko Pantic.

Deportivo manager, John Toshack took off Brazilian World Cup star Bebeto at half-time, and five minutes into the second half his gamble paid off when teenage substitute David headed a cross by Javier Manjarin past Atletico keeper Juan Molina.

Just when Deportivo seemed to be taking control of the match Kiko Narvaez

was brought down in the area, and Pantic made it 2-1 with Atletico's 23rd set-piece goal of the season.

Kiko was again on the receiving end when Serbian defender Miroslav Djukic was sent off for hacking down the Spanish international in the 75th minute.

But Deportivo struck back with just five minutes left when a superb pass from David set up Dimitry Radtchenko, and the Russian international gave Molina no chance.

"We lost a great opportunity to win, but that's football," said Atletico coach Radomir Antic after the game.

Compostela stay third, four points behind Barcelona and 12 behind Atletico, despite losing 3-1 at Oviedo. Another point behind are Valencia, who lost 3-0 to a brilliant second-half hat-trick by Betis midfielder Juan Sabas.

Valencia looked tired after their midweek Cup semi-final at Atletico.

Another team that seems to have run out of steam in the longest league schedule ever played in Spain are fifth-placed Espanyol, who lost 1-0 at home to Sevilla, their second consecutive



Dimitry Radtchenko: His successful strike held leaders to draw.

home defeat. Espanyol deserved more from a scrappy game which was decided three minutes after the break.

Arteaga Moises hit the

underside of the bar with a shot only to see Sevilla pick the ball up from the rebound and score through Pepelu Raimundo.

Espanyol won a penalty

straight from the restart when Javi Garcia was brought down in the area by Juanito Rodriguez.

But Garcia's spot kick was saved by Sevilla keeper Monchi Rodriguez. The result enabled Real Madrid to close the gap on the leading pack, and UEFA Cup places, to just four points. The reigning champions were flattered by the 5-0 scoreline of their home game with bottom club Salamanca.

Their goals came from Raul Gonzalez, Michael Laudrup, Luis Enrique Martinez and two from Chilean forward Ivan Zamorano.

Salamanca, which slipped to bottom, could have let in even more. Raul missed a penalty 10 minutes after the break.

Danish midfielder Laudrup was substituted shortly afterwards in preparation for Real's European Cup quarter-final first leg against his old club Juventus which coincidentally also won 5-0 in its Italian league game against Padua.

Seventh-placed Betis trail Real Madrid on points, with Tenerife two behind and Real Sociedad — yet to lose a game in 1996 — another point back in ninth.

Rangers keep nose in front



Brian Laudrup: Constant threat to Hibs. converted spot kick for Rangers 2nd goal.

HIBS 0 RANGERS 2
Rangers regained their three-point lead over arch-rival Celtic in the race for the Scottish title with a 2-0 victory over Hibernian on a tension-packed Sunday afternoon at Easter Road, Edinburgh.

A Graham Mitchell own goal and a 70th minute Brian Laudrup penalty clinched the points to give Walter Smith a satisfying result on his 200th league match in charge of Rangers.

But Paul Gascoigne collected his 12th yellow card of the season — for celebrating the penalty award — and Rangers keeper Andy Goram was attacked by a fan who ran on to the field.

Goram ended up with a bloody nose but he will be simply delighted that with eight games left, Rangers lead Celtic by three points and have a superior goal difference.

Smith gave his \$A3.02 million signing from Aalborg, Dane Erik Bo Andersen, a starting debut

although he had a quiet game.

But his other Dane Laudrup was a constant threat to Hibs, setting up an early chance for Stuart McCall, and it was from him that the opening goal stemmed after 31 minutes. Hibs could not stop his mazy run from the left but although there were Rangers players waiting for his cross, Mitchell inadvertently bulletted a header beyond Jim Leighton for an own goal.

The champions were under pressure for much of the second half but they broke away to grab the second 20 minutes from time.

A fine move involving substitute Charlie Miller, Gascoigne and Laudrup saw the England player blocked inside the box. The referee awarded a penalty which led to a row between Gascoigne and Leighton.



Then came the 76th minute incident as a fan from the Hibs end reached Goram before finally being hauled away by police and stewards. A fan was later charged with assault and breach of the peace following the incident involving Goram.

Goram, a former Hibs player, continued playing despite the 76th-minute drama, which happened after Laudrup had scored Rangers' second goal from the penalty spot.

Police said six people were arrested during the match and eight were ejected from the ground.

CELTIC 4 HEARTS 0
Celtic beat Hearts for the fourth time this season handing out a 4-0 drubbing and extending its unbeaten run in domestic games to 25.

Goals from Paul McStay,

Pierre Van Hooydonk and Brian McLaughlin put Celtic in command. Simon Donnelly completed the tally in the 85th minute fourth.

Hearts handed Craig Nelson his first start in goal for five months in the absence of injured Frenchman Gilles Rousset.

By the end Nelson, who also conceded four goals to Celtic in September, must have wished he had been elsewhere.

The best goal was the first, skipper McStay lashing home a right-foot shot from 25 metres after just seven minutes.

Celtic manager Tommy Burns singled out recalled winger Brian McLaughlin. "We played some great football in the first half and scored some high quality goals," said Burns. "Brian came in and showed what a quality player he can be."

Third-placed Aberdeen beat visitors Kilmarnock 3-0 to move to 43 points but remained a massive 22 behind.

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City find Oasis

English premier league club Manchester City could soon be playing with the name of Oasis, one of the world's biggest rock bands, on the front of their shirts.

Oasis's joint-leader Noel Gallagher met City chairman Francis Lee last week and he confirmed that the band, whose five members are all die-hard fans, could sponsor the club.

Oasis, whose current single is No.1 in the British charts and whose latest album is No.3 in the United States, could bring massive revenue to City through soccer and rock music-related marketing.

Football crowds without chants

A \$A12 million theme restaurant may be forced to open for business without one of its "virtual reality" sound effects because it cannot find any football chants clean enough for family diners.

The owners of Football Football want to give customers an authentic taste of the terraces by recording a Premier League clash and playing it back over the restaurant's audio system.

But so far the owners of the restaurant, styled to resemble a stadium and due to open in London's Haymarket on March 26, have been stymied by the "colourful" language beloved of British fans.

"The restaurant represents everything that is great about the game — the skill and talent involved and the excitement and tension of the crowd," said a spokesman.

"But a lot of our custom is going to come from families, so we obviously can't play anything that questions the parentage of the referee."

Now the owners have despatched "scouts" to football grounds around the country in a bid to find the club with the loudest...but cleanest supporters in the land.

The restaurant's other special effects include a glass tunnel, accompanied by the sound of studs on concrete, from which emerging customers are welcomed by the roar of a packed crowd.

Diners can also see a Mexican wave rippling around them, a hologram talking head of England coach Terry Venables and an animated version of soccer legend George Best.

An audio-visual system will entertain customers with clips of memorable goals and the restaurant's decor will feature soccer memorabilia.

Football Football is the brainchild of former professionals Bobby Keetch and Terry McQuade.

Batty from Lancs to Tyneside

England midfielder David Batty has finally completed his \$A8.08 million move from Blackburn to Premier League pacesetter Newcastle.

By delaying putting pen to paper until last Thursday, Batty effectively halved a two-match suspension.

When the two clubs agreed terms on February 23, it looked like Batty would have to sit out two games for his new club.

But, with Blackburn playing last Wednesday, the suspension has now been cut to one game — the premier league showdown with Manchester United in Newcastle next Monday night.

"I'll be raring to go after the Manchester United match and I'm just relieved that everything has now been completed," said Batty.



David Batty: Will miss first match after his move, due to suspension.

ENGLISH FA CUP

Fifth Round

Only Premier League clubs in last eight

Red-hot strikers Stan Collymore and Robbie Fowler fired Liverpool into an FA Cup quarter-final clash with Leeds after seeing off the spirited challenge of first division Charlton last Wednesday.

No first division side will feature in the last eight of the FA Cup after a night of few surprises with Chelsea thumping Grimsby 4-1 and Wimbledon beating Huddersfield 3-1 in their fifth round replays.

The all-Premiership match between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham ended in a 2-2 deadlock.

LIVERPOOL 2 CHARLTON 1

Fowler opened the scoring for Liverpool after 12 minutes with his 27th goal of a prolific season before Collymore weighed in with the second after 59 minutes — his 14th of the campaign.

Liverpool boss Roy Evans, though, admitted his side was well below par but praised the efforts of the first division high-fliers.

Evans said: "We didn't kill the game off like we should have done, but Charlton are a team that never give up.

"At times I felt we fell below the standard we have set ourselves. We need to concentrate fully for 90 minutes."

Liverpool legend Ian Rush, who said before the match he will leave on a free transfer at the end of the season, replaced Collymore for the last 11 minutes and was given a rapturous reception by the Kop.

FOREST 2 TOTTENHAM 2

Ian Woan fired two superb free-kicks to match a brilliant brace by Chris Armstrong and earn Nottingham Forest an FA Cup fifth round replay at Tottenham on March 9.

Ahead after just three minutes when Woan stunned goalkeeper Ian Walker with a 20 metre blast following Gary Mabbutt's foul on Bryan Roy, Forest were stung by the ferocity of Tottenham's comeback.

It brought Armstrong an eighth minute equaliser with a header following Teddy Sheringham's flick from a Colin Calderwood free kick before the striker grabbed his 16th of the season midway through the first half with a cool finish.

But Armstrong had to



Mark Hughes: Ambitious for a 20th Century record of four FA Cup winners' medals.

leave the game with an ankle injury in the 69th minute and Forest, second best before the interval, hit Spurs in the second period and fully deserved their equaliser from another Woan special.

This time he curled a left-foot free-kick beyond Walker's flailing right hand 18 minutes from time after Ronny Rosenthal had become the fourth Spurs player to be booked.

CHELSEA 4 GRIMSBY 1

Mark Hughes, who has set his sights on a 20th century record of four FA Cup winners' medals, steered Chelsea into a home quarter-final against Wimbledon on March 9.

The former Manchester United hero, who completed his hat-trick at Old Trafford before Alex Ferguson discarded him, sparked an amazing sequence of four goals in as many minutes at Stamford Bridge to stun Grimsby.

The conqueror of Premier division team West Ham was trailing only to youngster Michael Duberry's first goal for Chelsea when Hughes rose to head in Gavin Peacock's 54th minute cross — the Welshman's first goal since he returned from a

five-match ban.

Grimsby struck straight back a minute later through skipper Paul Grove before John Spencer restored Chelsea's lead with a clipped right-foot shot and two minutes later Gavin Peacock swung in his sixth goal in seven games.

WIMBLEDON 3 HUDDERSFIELD 1

Chelsea now face Wimbledon in an all-London quarter-final clash after two goals from Don Goodman disposed of first division Huddersfield at the second time of asking.

Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear said: "The dream goes on. Plenty of big names are out of the competition but now we are in the last eight. You never know what can happen from there."

SOUTHAMPTON 2 SWINDON 0

Southampton manager Dave Merrington promised Manchester United a tough battle in the sixth round after his side saw off second division Swindon 2-0.

"We are in the quarter-finals and face a great game against United," he said. "Who knows? The bigger the club the bigger they fall. We'll go up there and have a go."

Second Brazilian arrives at 'Boro

Brazilian World Cup star Branco flew into England last Wednesday and warned Middlesbrough's fans not to expect miracles.

The 31-year-old defender, who has signed an 18-month contract with Boro with the option of a further year, was granted a work permit on Tuesday.

Branco — full name Claudio Ibraim Vaz Leal — joins fellow Brazilian star Juninho at Middlesbrough. The \$A9.69 million midfielder is currently playing for his country in the South American Olympic qualifying tournament.

Branco, who has won 83 caps for Brazil and was a key figure in the 1994 World Cup winning side, attracted the interest of Middlesbrough when he announced he was a free agent after buying out his contract.

FA charge Curle and Asprilla

Newcastle's Faustino Asprilla and Manchester City defender Keith Curle were charged last week with misconduct following their scuffle during the English premier league match at Maine Road on February 24.

"It is clear both players have a case to answer," English FA spokeswoman Clare Tomlinson said after senior FA officials studied the match video.

"Both players have 14 days to answer the charges and Asprilla has already pleaded his innocence," she said.

Colombian international Asprilla was first seen to elbow Curle in the face after the City captain had grabbed him from behind as the pair challenged for the ball.

Then both were involved in a tussle after the final whistle during which Asprilla appeared to butt Curle.

Asprilla, playing only his second full match for premier league leaders Newcastle, denied there had been any intent to injure Curle. Asprilla, who joined Newcastle from Parma of Italy for a club record \$A15.35 million last month, was charged with two counts of misconduct and Curle with one.

Aalborg star joins Rangers

Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers signed Danish striker Erik Bo Andersen last Wednesday in a deal believed to be worth \$A3.03 million pounds.

Andersen was the Danish League's leading scorer with 24 goals last season, helping Aalborg lift the championship for the first time in their 110-year history.

He has won four international caps and is a strong contender for a place in the squad for the European Championship finals in England in June, when Denmark defends its title.



Erik Bo Andersen: Leading scorer in Denmark last season now in Scotland.



ERICSSON CUP MATCHES THIS WEEK ROUND 23

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
v
UTS OLYMPIC

Breakers Stadium - 7:30PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

BRISBANE STRIKERS
v
MARCONI FAIRFIELD

Suncorp Stadium - 7:00PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

MORWELL FALCONS
v
WOLLONGONG CITY

Morwell Falcon Pk - 7:00PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

SYDNEY UNITED
v
WEST ADELAIDE

Sydney Utd SPT Ctr - 7:00PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
v
SOUTH MELBOURNE

Melb. Croat. SPT Ctr - 7:00PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

ADELAIDE CITY
v
CANBERRA COSMOS

Hindmarsh Stadium - 7:30PM

ROUND 19

Deferred Matches

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

ADELAIDE CITY
v
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Hindmarsh Stadium - 7:30PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

MORWELL FALCONS
v
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Morwell Falcon Pk - 7:30PM

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